Copa sought labor groups' support, says Beltran

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Doy Laurel: Legal battle 'far from over'

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Vice President Salvador H. Laurel yesterday declared that the legal battle over his alleged criminal liabilities as chair of the defunct National Centennial Commission (NCC) was "far from over."

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Laurel said he was preparing to take

DOY/A19

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Diplomat sports pigtail

By Christine Herrera

HE LOVES denim jeans, hates hair cuts, and wears his long white hair in a pigtail.

In a word he's "unconventional" for his new post as undersecretary for international economic relations of

DIPLOMAT/A20

Palace admits news leak

'Purpose was to expose plotters'

By Carlito Pablo
and Dona Pazzibugan

"WE WANTED to stop them right then and there."

This is the reason Malacañang deliberately leaked to the INQUIRER the alleged plan by the Freedom Force to install a "collective leadership" in place of President Macapagal-Arroyo, a high-ranking Palace official admitted to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, was assigned to do the leaking, said the Palace official, who asked not to be named.

The leak was cleared with Ms Macapagal herself, the official said.

Limcaoco himself finally admitted yesterday in a radio interview that he had indeed leaked the story to the INQUIRER but claimed he was asked by the office of Jaime Cardinal Sin to do so, and not by his boss, the President.

Over dzRH, Limcaoco said that "by and large, the (INQUIRER) story was correct."

"As a result of the story, *durog* (alleged proponents of a junta were crushed)," the official emphatically said.

He was referring to the principal players identified in the alleged scheme: columnist Teodoro Benigno, former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Pastor "Boy" Saycon, all prominent leaders of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), who have been identified as among the organizers of Freedom Force.

"They tried to talk to some generals but they were not able to convince any one of them," the official said, describing the seriousness of the alleged plan to unseat the President.

He did not identify these gen-

PALACE/A21

CLENCHED fist indicates Ronald Lumbao's defiance despite his arrest at dawn Thursday. He's now detained at Camp Crame on rebellion charges, a non-bailable offense. ERIK ARAZAS

Erap leader falls

'You kept taunting us on radio,' police chief spy tells Lumbao

By TJ Burgonio
and Jerome Aning

"I WISH you had not taken me; you should have just let me go," the leader of the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) said after police arrested him yesterday in Novaliches, Quezon City, following almost a year in hiding.

Ronald Lumbao, 36, who is facing rebellion charges for allegedly instigating the bloody May 1 siege of Malacañang last year, was arrested in an apartment owned by his common-law wife at around 3 a.m.

His capture coincided with the first anniversary of the arrest of his idol, Joseph Estrada, who was ousted President by a military-backed people's revolt in January 2001. Estrada is detained on corruption charges.

Lumbao's arrest also came five days before members of the PMAP and other pro-Estrada groups commemorate the Labor Day attack with a march on Malacañang.

Lumbao, who taunted authorities by granting radio interviews at the height of the manhunt against him, seemed dazed hours after his arrest, a police intelligence official said.

"He couldn't believe he was arrested. He deeply regretted that we caught up with him. He was worried over the effect that

ERAP/A20

Gov't stops 2 TV stations from airing Estrada docu

By Carlito Pablo
and Volt Contreras

THE AIRING on two television channels of the "Ama ng Masa" documentary film, which tells the stories of Edsa II and III from the perspective of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was stopped last night upon the "request" of two regulatory agencies.

The Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) told the Iglesia ni Cristo-owned Net 25 and ABC-5 to "hold in abeyance" the showing of the one-hour film. Both the VRB and MTRCB are under the Office of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"*Tulong kay Presidente* (It's help for the President Macapagal)," was how the two worded their request to Net 25.

Sources said ABC-5 was constrained to "heed the advice" of the government as the latter could pull out from the network a show sponsored by the government-controlled Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Estrada supporters, who marked the first anniversary of their idol's arrest yesterday, saw the VRB and MTRCB's action as censorship.

AMA/A20

Estrada getting fair trial, say 66% in SWS poll

A FAIR trial.

Most Filipinos continue to think that the country's first-ever plunder trial of a former president is a fair one, the Social Weather Stations reported yesterday.

The SWS survey of March 2002 found that a solid majority of the population—66 percent—thought that the anti-graft court trying deposed President Joseph Estrada on the capital charge of plunder has been acting fairly or in a neutral manner.

Only 27 percent said the Sandiganbayan was biased against Estrada. "This pattern of opinion is the same for all social classes," the polling firm noted. Even Estrada's traditional sources of support, the D and E demographic classes, followed the pattern.

But Estrada had a different take on the results. Reached by phone yesterday, he told the INQUIRER that many of his supporters did not understand the legal complexities of his case.

"Most of my supporters are in the D and E class who don't have much understanding of the intricacies of what's happening in court. If only these can be explained to them well enough, the figures would be in reverse," he said, optimistically.

Among the issues surrounding his trial which he said must be explained further to the people was what he called the unprecedented creation of the Sandiganbayan's special division to hear his cases—"the first since the trial of Yamashita," he said, referring to the World War II-era Japanese general.

Estrada was arrested a year ago yesterday, the first head of state to be detained since President Jose P. Laurel at the end of the Second World War.

Last February, he accused both the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan of railroading his trial. He dismissed his nine lawyers in protest and declared

ESTRADA/A20

Copa sought backing of labor to establish junta, says Beltran

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE PLOT to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo was hatched even before she was installed in Malacañang, and it was the brainchild of the same people who took part in unseating her predecessor, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran disclosed yesterday.

Beltran said members of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA) and the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) sought the support of labor groups for the establishment of a military-civilian junta last year.

Last Tuesday, the same day that advocates of the so-called Freedom Force were accused of plotting to unseat the President, purported PCA head Salvador Enriquez asked them to join the political opposition and form a "united coalition force."

Enriquez, who served as budget secretary during the Ramos administration, yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone inter-

COPA/A21

Burnham family cuts deal with Abus

ZAMBOANGA City—"Can any family believe the promises of the Abu Sayyaf in the future?"

The father of Abu Sayyaf hostage Martin Burnham issued the plaintive cry yesterday, after telling a radio station in this city that his family had struck a deal with the kidnappers which the bandit group later refused to honor.

Instead of keeping their promise to release American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap by late March, the kidnappers have added new demands, Paul Burnham said yesterday.

In a phone call from Kansas, aired over dxRZ, a Radio Mindanao Network station, Paul Burnham said that "on March 13, after a lengthy discussion, our family finalized an agreement with (Abu Sayyaf intermediaries) for the safe release of Martin, Gracia and Deborah."

He said that a certain Abu Sulaiman, speaking for the Abu Sayyaf, told the family on

BURNHAM/A19

DENNIS SABANGAN

READY, AIM, FIRE
Under the supervision of US Special Forces, Filipino soldiers train their guns at a target during a close quarter combat exercise for the Balikatan 02-02 in Marine Base, Ternate, Cavite.

Second FRONT PAGE

LOST COMMANDS, KIDNAPPERS TARGETED

MILF to help gov't nab criminals

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has agreed to turn over to government authorities suspected criminals found to be hiding in its areas.

The agreement was contained in a joint communiqué in which the government and the secessionist group vowed to cooperate in isolating and capturing "all criminal groups, lost commands" and kidnap syndicates in Mindanao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday approved the document that was signed by Norberto Gonzales, her adviser on special concerns, and MILF vice chair Al Haj Murad.

The President suspended last month the formal peace talks between the two sides, but Gonzales has been holding backchannel talks with the MILF in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and in Mindanao.

"This (agreement) binds the MILF to cooperate and coordinate (with the government) whenever there are criminal elements that need to be arrested or purged from their areas," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable told reporters at a news briefing.

"This has been a very contentious problem in Central Mindanao. We're glad it's been finally resolved," Afable said.

Authorities have claimed that MILF "lost commands" like the Pentagon kidnap gang are taking refuge in the homes of their former comrades.

The same has been said of the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding hostage an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse, and which is believed to have been part of the secessionist movement.

The MILF has denied harboring criminals.

Action groups

Under the agreement:

- The Armed Forces, Philippine National Police and MILF will form ad hoc joint action groups to go after suspected criminals.
- The military and police will give the MILF an order of battle containing the names of criminals suspected of hiding in MILF areas or communities.
- The MILF will block the entry of criminals into its areas and, if necessary, seek the help of the AFP or PNP in going after such criminals in its areas.

"Both sides agreed that the activities of these criminal groups were impeding the peace process, the effective pursuit of development programs and the effective delivery of basic services to the poor," the document read in part.

According to Afable, the recognition of MILF communities is not an admission that these areas operate independently of the government.

"For reasons of practicality, we have to define communities where they are so we will have a basis to enforce such an agreement," he said.

Two brothers killed, 10 hurt by 'friendly fire'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two brothers were killed and 10 other persons were wounded, all of them civilians, when soldiers firing mortar rounds at suspected insurgents hit an evacuation center instead in Parang, Jolo, police said Thursday.

Government troops were in pursuit of the armed group believed to belong to the Moro National Liberation Front when the latter ran into the evacuation center Wednesday, according to provincial police chief Hainon Adjirin.

Adjirin said army soldiers fired mortar shells and one of the rounds hit the center, located in a public school building in the town of Parang. The evacuation center had been set up for civilians displaced by skirmishes between the government and rebels earlier this year.

The two brothers, both Muslims, were 50 and 55 years old. The ages of the wounded ranged from one to 57 years. Details on the severity of their wounds were not available.

A military spokesperson said Thursday the insurgents were believed to members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap and terrorist group.

Col. Ernesto Maningo said two soldiers were also wounded in the firefight, adding that there were no Abu Sayyaf casualties reported.

The clash came amid joint US-Philippine operations to quash the Abu Sayyaf on the nearby island of Basilan.

More than 1,000 American soldiers are assisting local forces in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf which has been holding hostage an American couple and a Filipino nurse for almost a year.

In Cagayan de Oro City, a small bomb exploded under a car early Thursday but there were no injuries, police said. *AP, AFP*

More electric rate hikes in the offing

By Clarissa S. Batino

CONSUMERS could be looking at more power rate increases—by as much as 77 centavos per kilowatt hour—in the coming months because of rising fuel prices.

Based on estimates of the government's economic team, the National Power Corp. would be forced to increase its electricity rates by about 17 centavos per kWh in May.

An increase in Napocor's rates would force the Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, to increase its charges by 55 centavos per kWh in July and in August, according to documents of the Development Budget Coordinating Council.

If fuel prices continue to rise, the Napocor may have to raise rates anew by five centavos in August, the DBCC said.

The DBCC is composed of the budget and finance departments, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The projected increase in electricity rates would be on top of a pending petition by Meralco to raise its charges by P1.47 per kWh.

Meralco has filed a with the Energy Regulatory Commission to "unbundle" its rates, which would lead to an increase of electricity rates of P1.17 per kWh.

It has also sought the ERC approval for a 30-centavo per kWh increase on its basic charges.

The ERC said it would decide on Meralco's petition on or before June 30.

The DBCC's estimated increase in electricity rates from May to August was based on recent increases in fuel prices, by 32 centavos per liter in March and 50 centavos per liter in early April.

The oil companies implemented another round of fuel price increases of about 10 centavos per liter in mid-April.

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SSS threatens to cut salary loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SOCIAL Security System said yesterday it might stop granting salary loans to its members if it could not collect a substantial portion of the P24 billion in past due loans owed by delinquent borrowers.

SSS president Corazon de la Paz said the state-run pension fund, for the meantime, has opted to tighten its requirements and increase interest rates slapped on new salary loans.

"Under the law, we could stop granting new loans but for now we would simply make it more restrictive. We realize that many of the members rely on salary loans," De la Paz said in a phone interview.

Maria Luz Generoso, SSS assistant vice president for loans and programs, said the pension fund's charter provides that it could extend salary loans up to 10 percent of its investible reserve fund.

Generoso said the SSS reserve fund stands at P161 billion but outstanding salary loans now amount to about P24 billion. This puts the amount of salary loans at about 14 percent of investible funds, she said.

Of the P24 billion in salary loans extended to 4.7 million members, 90 percent was considered past due, Generoso said. Of the members that have borrowed money, she added, 80 percent were delinquent.

"Some of the unpaid loans date back 10 years or even longer. As a result, the fund is really suffering," said the SSS official.

Starting in May, Generoso said the SSS would require a borrower to have a co-maker sign for a loan.

Members who are employed would have to get their employers as co-makers, while non-employed members need to have another member of good standing as guarantor.

The pension fund would also charge a 10 percent interest rate on new salary loans to be deducted from the borrower's salary. This as opposed to the current interest rate of six percent for loans up to P15,000, and eight percent for loans in excess of that threshold.

Generoso said the SSS would also require borrowers to have a longer period of continuous contributions to the fund before they would be eligible for a salary loan.

The SSS management should be made to explain why it was suspending the grant of salary loans to its members, according to Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel said he has received complaints from SSS members who decried the suspension of salary loans, "particularly to those who have been paying their premiums and have no record of delinquency in repayment." *With Rocky Nazareno*

Did Swiss lawyer err in unfreezing Marcos crony funds?

By Donna S. Cueto

DID Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann violate Swiss law when he lifted the freeze order on $17 million in alleged Marcos crony funds?

This question cropped up in view of a Swiss Federal Court decision issued two years ago, a copy of which the INQUIRER has obtained, that ruled that the Marcoses could not invoke the statute of limitations to prevent information on their deposits from reaching the Philippines.

The Swiss high court ruling said the Marcoses and their cronies could not invoke "prescription" to seek the release of their frozen funds.

The Swiss court ruling meant that Jann had erred when he lifted the freeze on the crony funds in February on the ground of absolute prescription, a source familiar with Swiss law said.

The decision issued by the Swiss Federal Court on June 23, 2000 said it was not apparent the statute of limitations or prescription could be invoked by the Marcos cronies. It said Swiss law on prescription could not be used as a ground by the Marcoses and their cronies to have their frozen funds released.

"The court said that since Switzerland was merely offering Manila legal assistance in the case, Philippine law and not Swiss law applied," a report about the Swiss Federal Court ruling obtained by the INQUIRER from the Swiss information service said.

The Swiss Federal Court also pointed out the Philippine Supreme Court had ruled the Philippine government's "right to claim the restitution of assets illegally acquired by state officials was not subject to a statute of limitations."

The ruling contradicted Jann's lifting on Feb. 6 and March 12 this year of the freeze on $17 million in Swiss deposits of former Marcos energy minister Geronimo Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja, and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla on the ground of the Swiss' understanding of "absolute prescription."

Jann in his March 12 ruling denying the Philippine government's motion for reconsideration on the lifting of the freeze, cited Swiss law on the prescription of criminal acts dating before 1985.

The Swiss magistrate pointed out the Marcos deposits, particularly the unexplained wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, were supposedly the products of criminal acts that happened before 1985, and had thus already prescribed.

Missing boy

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Ian Sicreto has been missing since Monday, April 22. He was last seen between 9 a.m. and noon in the vicinity of his residence in Barangay Niog, Bacoor, Cavite.

Anyone who may know of his whereabouts is asked to call his aunt, Lita Herrera, at tel. 872-7328 or cell phone no. (0919) 252-4101.

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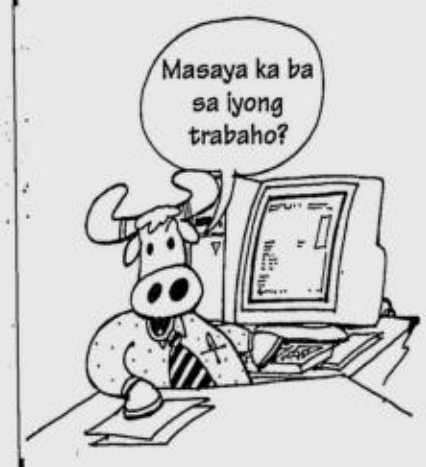

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Malaysia wants expanded Spratlys talks

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia has proposed giving a bigger role to annual summits between Southeast Asian countries and China, Japan and South Korea, and expressed the hope that disputes over the Spratly Islands could be resolved peacefully.

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Badawi, speaking to reporters after meeting Wednesday with his Chinese counterpart, Vice President Hu Jintao, said they agreed a code of conduct regarding the Spratlys should be implemented.

A code has been under discussion for years as a way of regulating disputes among the six nations—China, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—that are claiming part or all of the islands, believed to have rich undersea oil deposits.

A code remains a long way from adoption, Abdullah said, and more study and discussions were needed before one could even be placed on the table. But, he stressed, a code was needed to ensure regional peace and stability.

China, which has tried to reassure its smaller Asian neighbors that it does not seek to dominate the region, wants the Spratlys claims to be handled with care and not blown out of proportion, Abdullah said.

"We must ensure that whatever action we take in pursuit of our claims is restrained and must emphasize the importance of discussion," Abdullah said.

He said Malaysia wants to see the regional summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the three northeast Asian powers—China, Japan and South Korea—turned into more concrete East Asian summits, Abdullah said.

Currently, the meetings, known as Asean Plus Three, have an ad hoc feel and the grouping should be improved and given a more significant role, Abdullah said.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. AP

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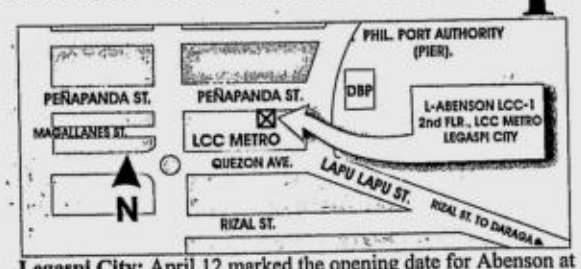
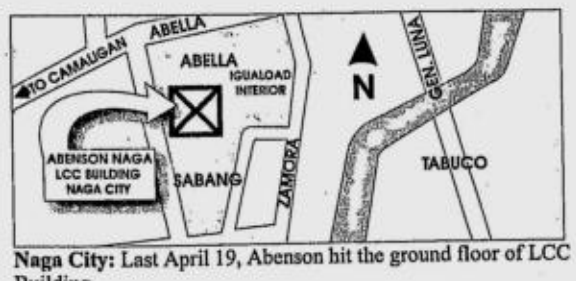


Legaspi City: April 12 marked the opening date for Abenson at the 2nd level of LCC Main Bldg.



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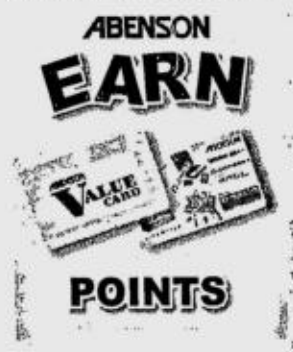

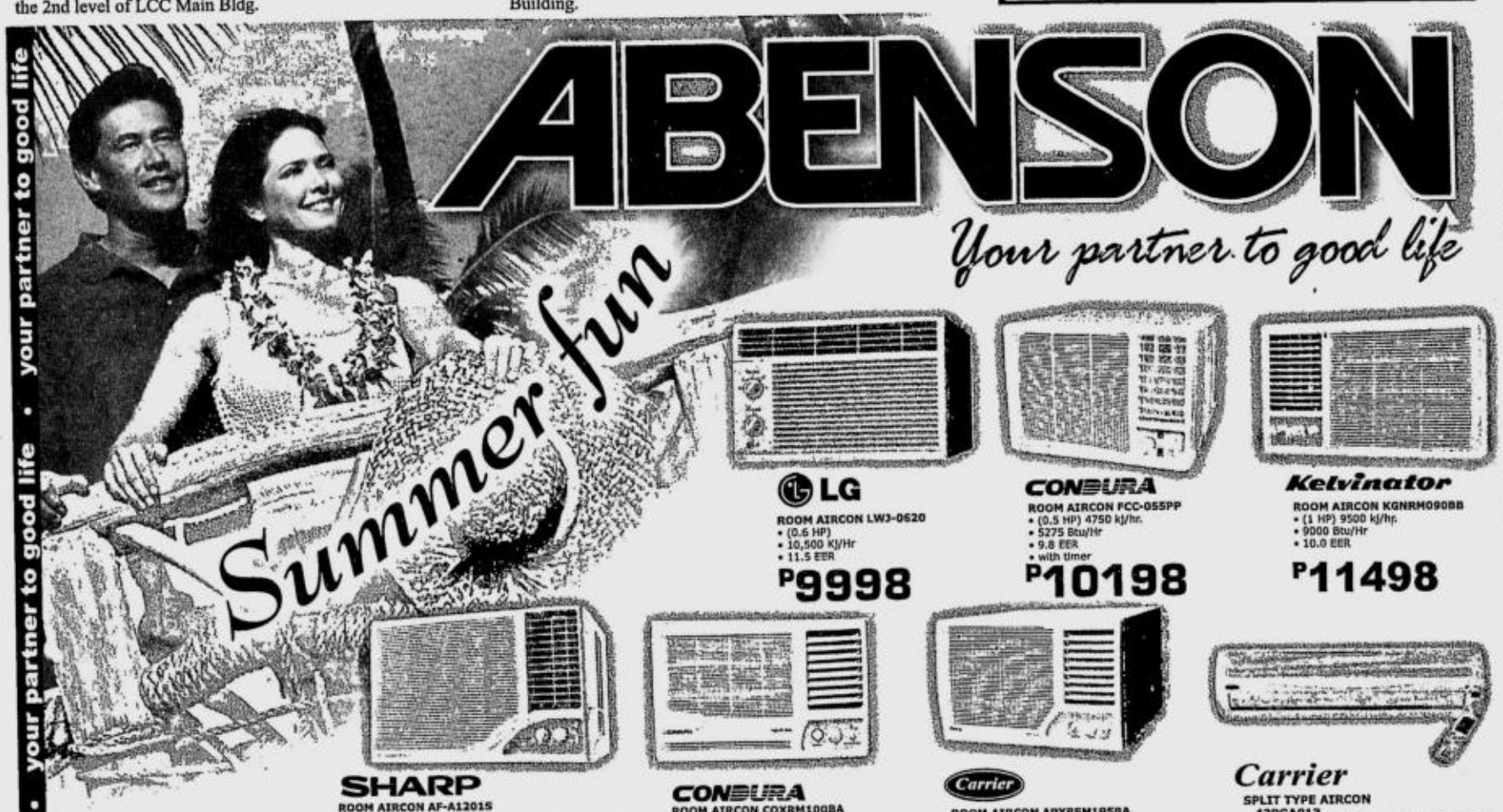

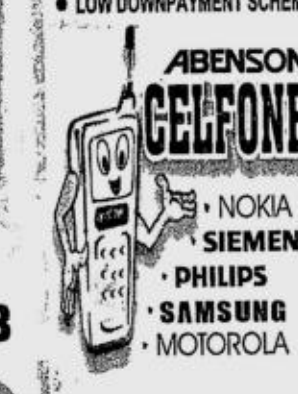

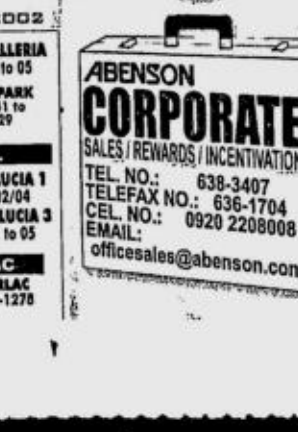

Domingo orders Syrians' arrest

By Blanche S. Rivera

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo has ordered the arrest of four Syrians—one of them reportedly the honorary consul general of Syria—who are accused of assaulting an ABS-CBN crew in Pampanga on Tuesday night.

The four would be deported for being undesirable aliens as soon as they are found, Domingo said.

A team of immigration agents, with the assistance of the national police and the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Luzon, has been dispatched to Pampanga province where the incident allegedly occurred last Tuesday

ABS-CBN reporter Jing Castañeda and her crew have charged the Syrians with "inflicting serious physical injuries and malicious mischief."

They claimed that the Syrians had harassed them and destroyed their van after the four were caught on camera while patronizing a bar in the Angeles City red-light district.

Domingo urged the Syrians to turn themselves in so the BID could immediately conduct an investigation.

She said authorities were already on to them and would definitely find them.

The four Syrians were identified as Galem Madame, Mohd Jouma, Fawaz Habar Kozma and Mohammad Issam El-Debs, the honorary consul.

Domingo said the bureau would examine the Syrians' travel documents to see if any of them were overstaying or illegal aliens, which could become another ground for their deportation.

The foreign affairs department has said that El-Debs being only an honorary consul was not covered by diplomatic immunity.

The initial police investigation established that the Syrians were in a girlie joint on A. Santos Street in Clark Field when the ABS-CBN news team, which was reportedly shooting a documentary, entered the bar and started taking footage.

The four Syrians allegedly accosted the news team and demanded that the crew hand over the tape and camera.

When Castañeda and her companions refused, the Syrians allegedly started beating up the cameraman.

When the crew drove away, the Syrians gave chase. One of the Syrians allegedly smashed the van's windshield with a baseball bat when they caught up with the ABS-CBN van.

Castañeda said the violence stopped only when a police team on routine patrol arrived.

Domingo said the Syrians would be detained "indefinitely" at the immigration jail in Bicutan until the criminal complaint against them by the ABS-CBN crew is resolved.

PRO-ESTRADA forces led by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (standing, left) decry the alleged "money face" (*mukhang pera*) of President Macapagal-Arroyo while holding up replicas of the new P200 peso bill.

Oreta raises cancer warnings over rice

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Tessie Aquino-Oreta yesterday asked the health and agriculture departments to look into recent scientific findings about cancer-causing substances occurring in the most common foods like rice and potatoes.

A recent study published in Stockholm, Sweden, showed high levels of a suspected carcinogen, acrylamide, occurring in rice, bread and potatoes when heated.

Acrylamide is a colorless crystalline solid that has been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a probable cancer-causing agent.

The substance has been shown by cancer studies to induce gene mutations and to cause benign and malignant tumors in animal tests.

Acrylamide is also known to cause damage to the central and peripheral nervous system.

"The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health should waste no time in verifying this study and undertaking research to determine whether rice has been determined to really contain cancer-causing agents," Oreta said.

"This alarming pronouncement from Sweden could alter the food production and food consumption patterns of Filipinos and affect the general health and well-being of millions of Filipinos," she said.

Earlier, Oreta called on Malacañang to come up with clear-cut guidelines on the entry and commercial use of genetically modified plant organisms (GMOs) to make sure that the application of biotechnology in boosting food security would not undermine public health and the environment.

Reports have shown that 46 food products found to contain GMOs were being sold in the country without consumers' knowledge because of the lack of proper labeling and government guidelines to regulate their entry.

The tests, conducted by the Greenpeace environment group, cited such food products as children's snacks, cornstarch, canned and processed meats and soya bean drinks.

Oreta has also proposed the amendment of Senate Bill No. 1965, or the New Plant Varities Act, to ensure the protection of indigenous and local communities and their traditional lifestyles in the implementation of biodiversity projects.

She said indigenous communities should equally benefit from the development and use of GMOs.

Senate Bill 1865 provides for the protection of the intellectual property rights (IPR) of plant breeders and establishes a National Plant Variety Board to handle the granting of patents for new plant variety inventions.

Senators have endorsed Oreta's proposal to ensure that all access to genetic resources should be subject to the prior approval of the government and of communities where such resources were "uniquely endemic."

Hold order out vs Dante Tan, 7 associates

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PASIG Regional Trial Court has issued a hold-departure order against controversial businessman Dante Tan and seven of his top associates in connection with the massive stock price manipulation scandal involving Best World Resources shares in 1999.

Judge Amelia A. Fabros of the Pasig RTC Branch 160 issued the HDO on April 18.

However, the HDO may have come a little too late as Tan, a close friend of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada reportedly left the country sometime ago.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he had yet to verify reports that Tan had left for Canada.

It was also Fabros who issued a warrant for Tan's arrest on April 1, prompting Perez to order a nationwide manhunt for Tan.

Perez said he ordered Tan arrested after he failed to post bail.

Fabros said she granted the motion for an HDO because, except for Tan, all the other accused had voluntarily surrendered to the court and had been allowed to post bail.

"It is settled that the constitutional right to travel is not absolute nor is it inflexible. It admits of certain exceptions one of which is through a lawful order from the court," said Fabros.

She said the inherent power or right of the court to prohibit a person admitted to bail from leaving the country had been recognized by the Supreme Court.

Tan is charged with four counts of violation of the Revised Securities Act, in a case filed by the justice department on March 11.

Tan's co-accused are Eduardo Lim Jr., Jimmy Juan, Mario Juan, Hermogenes Laddaran, Raul de Castro and Federico Galang of A.T. De Castro Securities Corp, and Eduardo Co of Aurora Securities.

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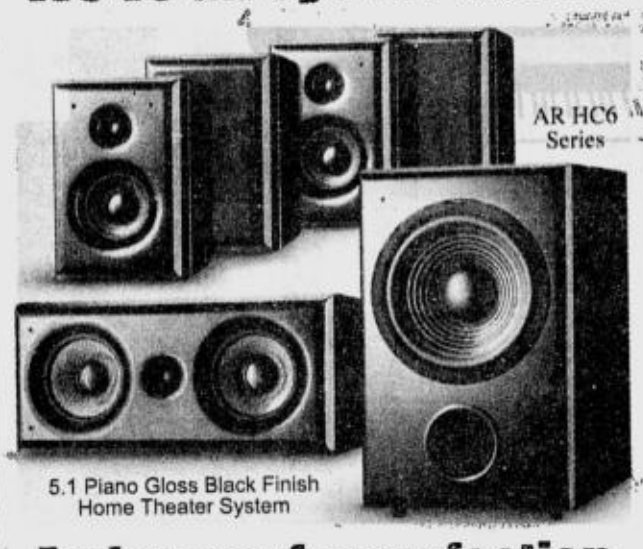

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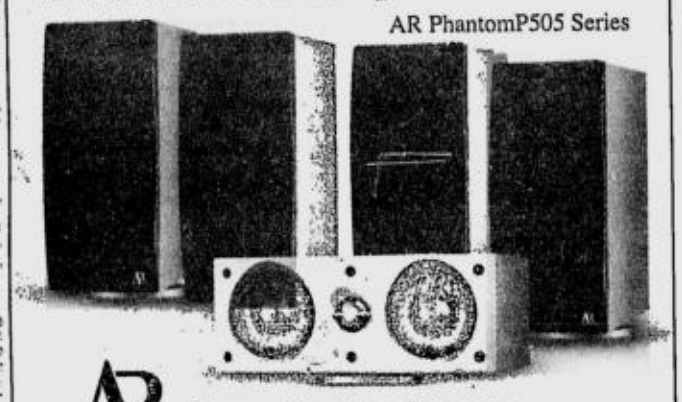

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Teachers threaten chaos, protests vs curriculum

By Donna S. Cueto

PUBLIC schoolteachers yesterday warned of a chaotic school year when elementary and high school classes open in June with a new curriculum.

The teachers, belonging to the 11,500-strong Manila Public School Teachers Association, have vowed to start a campaign to oppose the implementation of the controversial "restructured basic education curriculum" when classes open.

They claim that without a proper pilot-testing of the program having been done, the Department of Education was not prepared to implement the new curriculum nationwide.

The MPSTA, headed by Benjamin Valbuena who also chairs the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, said it would start protest actions against Education Secretary Raul Roco's "reckless implementation" of the revised curriculum.

"The protests will snowball. The other public schoolteachers in other districts are also opposing this," he said.

Valbuena explained that the training of the teachers which started this week in Manila showed how ill-advised the department was in proceeding with its plan to implement the revised curriculum despite the lack of time for study and preparation.

"We are calling on the DepEd to defer the implementation of this revised curriculum," Valbuena said.

"The training has fully convinced us that come June 2002, the RBEC's implementation would be chaotic," he said.

Valbuena explained that the teachers were being made to believe that the revised curriculum would be the "magic formula which will solve the ills that plague the education system."

But he said the teachers believed that the crisis in education was due to the government's "under-spending on education."

"We believe that for as long as the government does not adequately address issues of poverty, the teachers' meager salaries, the lack of classrooms and instructional materials, large class sizes, among others, low quality education will always be there," Valbuena explained.

The MPSTA also complained of the extension by two hours of the public school teachers' teaching time under the revised curriculum—from six to eight hours.

It said that this eight-hour classroom teaching was contrary to Article 3, Section 13 of the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, or Republic Act 4670.

Valbuena said that it was foolish for the DepEd to discontinue the original plan to have pilot schools for the revised basic education curriculum.

Under Roco's plan of implementation, half a million teachers in all the public schools would train to teach the revised curriculum for only a few weeks this month.

Valbuena said that those in charge of training the teachers this week—the supervisors, principals and department heads—had themselves only undergone only three days of training.

The teachers will be trained in batches in May. The training period for the first batch started on April 22 and will end today.

Valbuena said the training for the Manila public schoolteachers was not conducive to learning.

Some 2,000 teachers were packed into the auditorium of the V. Mapa High School, which is capable of accommodating only about 1,000 for the training of the "Makabayan" subjects, said Valbuena.

"There was no overhead projector. There were no training materials, no handouts. Many of the teachers could not hear the lectures as the sound system could not reach the back (of the auditorium). The participants became restive," he said.

He also noted that what was being taught was no different from what the teachers had already been doing in "interactive" teaching.

The teachers come out of the training confused about what the DepEd would like them to do, said Valbuena who judged the session a failure.

Valbuena called on the public schoolteachers to wear black armbands as an expression of their opposition to the program.

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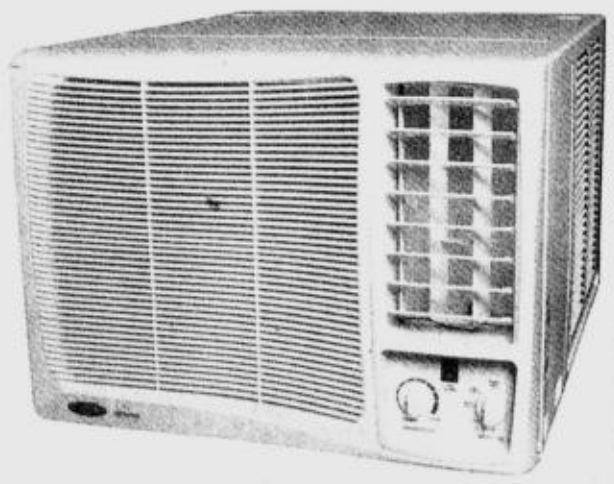
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Courage urges probe of Garcia

By Christian V. Esguerra

GOVERNMENT workers yesterday rejected allowing a "graceful exit" for the president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System amid allegations that he has mismanaged the state-run pension fund.

The Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) urged Malacañang to prosecute Winston Garcia for alleged corruption instead of simply replacing him.

"To let Garcia off the hook is to confirm a collusion between Garcia and his appointing officials in the Palace," the group said in a statement.

Courage, which represents government workers' unions nationwide, was reacting to an INQUIRER report that Malacañang would use Garcia's reported health problems, not his conflict with GSIS employees, as the reason for his replacement.

The group said the government should look into allegations that Garcia had made a total of P5.3 million in cash advances.

He also allegedly spent GSIS money for an overpriced computerization program, media consultants and legal counsels, and loaned P1 billion to the Public Estates Authority, while suspending the granting of employees' compensation claims and loaning.

Garcia has denied the allegations and challenged his accusers to file a case against him before the Ombudsman.

"While an ordinary government worker has to queue for a day or wait even months before a loan, retirement claims, disability benefit and other services are availed of, it takes a mere stroke of a pen for (GSIS) officials to enrich themselves," said Courage president Ferdinand Gaite.

The finance department has asked Garcia to submit a written reply on the issues raised against him by GSIS employees.

But Garcia yesterday clarified that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was not investigating his conflict with the GSIS employees.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Garcia claimed that Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. had told him that Camacho had not ordered an investigation into the employees' allegations.

"It is the Ombudsman that is mandated to investigate if there are such complaints," Garcia quoted Ferrer as saying.

The finance undersecretary could not be reached for comment yesterday.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Meeting with Sin

EDITORIAL

WHAT really transpired at Villa San Miguel, the official residence of the Manila archbishop, last April 15? All those who had anything to say on the matter seem to agree on only one thing: that there was a meeting between Jaime Cardinal Sin and a group that has come to be known as the leaders of a Freedom Force. About everything else—especially what was discussed and what was agreed upon—there seems to be disagreement even among those who were present.

Conrado Limcaoco, the presidential adviser on ecclesiastical and media affairs, who was not at the meeting, said the group tried to get the cardinal's support for a government takeover by a civilian-military junta. Someone who sounded like him chimed in with the information that the group was already boasting that it had lined up the support of no less than 19 generals as well as students, businessmen and the middle class.

All this was denied vehemently by the cardinal's guests. The story was nothing more than "an outrageous fiction," said columnist Teodoro Benigno who apparently served as the spokesperson for the group. Benigno said all that his group did was explain the idea of mobilizing a Freedom Force that would come forward when a social explosion occurs to prevent the country from plunging into chaos and save democracy from a bloody communist revolution or an inept military dictatorship. He said the Freedom Force would intervene when the political center collapses to create an opening for civil society to take over and install a "collective leadership."

Benigno recalled that during the presentation of this "theoretical alternative," Sin posed no objection, Indeed when they had finished, Benigno recalled, Sin in fact pledged to support it "unequivocally" and volunteered to be there when the Freedom Force would be launched in June this year.

Former Rep. Jose Cojuangco, who was also at the meeting, said their group went to see the cardinal to get his support for a manifesto that seeks to strengthen the "middle forces." Freedom Force is little more than "an information campaign to make people aware of what is going on," he said.

But there are those who now say more than abstract theories were taken up during the meeting. Rep. Benigno Aquino III has disclosed that three days after the meeting at Villa San Miguel, Bishop Socrates Villegas went to see former President Aquino to convey the cardinal's concern over some things that came up at the meeting. First was that a coup was afoot with a group of generals preparing to grab power. However, Congressman Aquino hastened to explain that his own impression was that the Freedom Force was simply relaying a warning about the planned power grab but it was not a party to it. The second thing that was bothering Sin, according to Aquino, was that it might appear that he was supportive of the takeover.

What we have here is a host and his guests who have different recollections of what they talked about in a meeting that ran for less than half an hour. The guests can't recall discussing anything remotely resembling a power grab, much less seeking the cardinal's support for it. The host remembers hearing something about a coup that was brewing and he is worried that his name might be mentioned as among its backers.

Was the cardinal, who is known to be ailing, perhaps hallucinating? Benigno said the cardinal was "in fine fettle" during their meeting.

Maybe then they talked about military generals planning to mount a coup, as Aquino thinks? But why would Sin worry that those generals might think he was all for them? No one among the coup plotters was in the group, remember?

Interestingly, Sin felt compelled to distance himself publicly from the Freedom Force after Benigno disclosed last Monday in his column that the cardinal had given his "blessing" to the endeavor. On the same day the column came out, Sin wrote Benigno to say: "I am not in favor of the 'collective leadership' you are talking about...We must respect the Constitution." Are they perhaps talking about different things? Benigno now says their group never even thought of ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo. "She may not be the best President we ever had, but she is the best we have today—bar none, bar no other contender." But that wasn't what he was saying when he started expounding late last year on his concept of a Freedom Force that would set up "a six-month provisional government," following the dissolution of Congress. Then he was saying that Ms Macapagal just couldn't hack it.

What a difference one brief meeting makes.

Who brokered Jancom offer to Erap?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ESTRADA flagships adviser Robert Aventajado asked me for a meeting during which he denied having been a broker for Jancom to clinch the $350-million garbage disposal deal with the Philippine government. Former President Estrada had revealed in an interview that Jancom had offered him, through Aventajado, a 20 percent commission just to sign the contract which was hatched during the Ramos administration but which Ramos himself refused to sign. But Aventajado said during our meeting: "Not through me. He must have confused me with somebody else."

That was last Monday evening, but since both Erap and Aventajado have been invited to testify before the House committee on ecology, I waited to find out what they would say before the investigators.

Last Wednesday afternoon, Aventajado did testify, admitting that Jancom did talk to him as head of the executive committee reviewing the deal but not the 20 percent offer.

"I think the actions that I took would speak better of how I dealt with Jancom. If (there was an offer) maybe I would have done something in favor of Jancom but I never did," he told the committee.

Erap himself asked that his turn to testify be postponed as he just had a gum operation and the wound was still fresh and painful. But he had an interview with Pia Hontiveros of ABS-CBN during which he confirmed that Jancom did offer a 20 percent commission but that he confused Aventajado with somebody else. That gets his flagships adviser off the hook.

During my interview with Aventajado, he said he talked to Erap about Jancom only once. Erap had called him from Malacañang. He repeated the conversation:

"*Bakit hindi mo raw pinapansin ang* Jancom?" Erap said.

"*Sino'ng may sabi?*" Aventajado asked back.

"*Narito si* Manny," Erap said.

"*Sinong* Manny?"

Erap gave the full name, a campaign contributor and the brother of a high-ranking Malacañang official.

So Aventajado explained why the Jancom contract could not be implemented and why it was necessary to have a new bidding for garbage disposal. In the first place, the terms of reference of the waste-to-energy project provide that proponents must have the capability to establish municipal waste thermal plants. Incineration was chosen because it would greatly reduce the volume of waste and prolong the life of disposal sites, not to mention its generation of electricity. There were to be two such thermal plants, one in San Mateo, Rizal, and the other in Carmona, Cavite. The San Mateo project was awarded to Jancom; the Carmona project to First Philippines.

On Dec. 15, 1997 the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC-CC) said it would deliberate on the contracts only upon satisfaction of the specified conditions. But only four days later, notwithstanding that the conditions were still unsatisfied, a contract for the waste-to-energy project in San Mateo was signed between Jancom and the Philippine government.

A meeting was held by the Presidential Task Force on Solid Waste Management wherein it was agreed that all conditions precedent in the contract must first be met, otherwise the contract would be null and void. This was reaffirmed in a later meeting with Jancom.

On March 5, 1998, the contract was submitted to President Ramos for approval. However, Executive Secretary Alexander Aguirre requested the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to comment on the contract. Neda reiterated that the ICC-CC had not yet evaluated the project because of the non-compliance with the conditions. On May 25, 1998, Aguirre recommend that the whole contract be endorsed to Neda and cautioned Ramos against approving the contract because of the non-satisfaction of the conditions.

Ramos never signed the contract. Nevertheless, he endorsed it to incoming President Estrada.

After several meetings and consultations, the conditions specified in the contract remained unfulfilled.

Meanwhile, Congress passed the Clean Air Act banning incinerators and, because of public resistance, the San Mateo and Carmona landfills were closed. Erap then ordered the Metro Manila Development Authority to look for alternative sites.

Faced with these changes in policy and environmental conditions, it was resolved by the ICC that the project can no longer be implemented. On Nov. 4, 1999, Aventajado told Jancom that the San Mateo waste-to-energy project could no longer be implemented and would no longer be pursued.

Besides, Aventajado said, the tipping fee being asked by Jancom was too high. The $59 per ton quoted is only the tip of the iceberg. Coupled with the waste-to-energy component, the total tipping fee would rise to a whopping $90 per ton.

The government held another bidding for a sanitary landfill which was won by Pro Environment with a bid of only $19 per ton tipping fee. But that was not implemented because Jancom went to court to compel the Philippine government to recognize and implement the contract for the San Mateo project.

The Court of Appeals ruled that the contract was legal and valid, which was affirmed by the Supreme Court, with the condition that the signature of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is needed to make the contract implementable. The President said, however, that she was not inclined to sign it.

And there the situation stands.

Nightmares

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"A DREAM come true." That's how Philippine Air Force Col. Danilo Ferrer describes the two Cobras and two Black Hawks the Americans are loaning to them. The Cobras and Black Hawks are top-of-the-line attack helicopters that Filipinos have seen only on television and the movies. They are being loaned to the local air force courtesy of the Balikatan war games, which have now moved to Luzon.

Well, this country is a sucker for action movies, so it should come as no surprise if the public itself, and not just the beneficiaries of this show of magnanimity, is excited by the prospect. There is only one problem with this, however. Which is the difference between action movies and real life.

In action movies, nobody gets hurt. The pyrotechnics are all sound and fury signifying, well, special effects. The roar that you hear is added after the shoot, the better with DTS or Dolby Digital audio processing for ear-splitting results. The bullets are blank and the debris that fly off an explosion, quite apart from the things that explode themselves, are fake.

Not so in real life. The roar of low-flying planes in the war games in Zambales has already been a source of complaints from the residents of Barangay Palanginan. The pilots flying the plane may feel only a rush of adrenaline and the music of "Top Gun," but the people below see only schoolchildren covering their ears and farm animals scattering in every direction. Just as well, the planes and helicopters are not miniatures but are real ones carrying armaments that contain toxic material. Surely we need no great reminders of how careful the Americans are about not leaving toxic wastes behind. Kids continue to die of contamination in President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite province where Clark once stood.

But, as it is, these are the least of our worries. What's wrong with it goes deeper. Which can be summed up in this way: All of this has been justified as protecting democracy in these islands, but democracy is the last thing that can possibly stand after this. It is bound to be the first casualty of this kind of war against terrorism.

Look at the culture, or mind-set, all this has already spawned. Barely have the trumpets of war against terrorism been blown in these islands than the same generals we used to deride as being corrupt, incompetent and murderous been transformed into the saviors of the republic. Suddenly, the military can do nothing wrong. Suddenly, the military needs all the help it can get. Suddenly, the military, aided in no small way by a recent deluge of action movies having soldiers for heroes, have become the new cultural icons.

For crying out loud, this is the same military that helped Marcos string barbed wire across the country. This is the same military that tortured and killed the people who raised a fist against tyranny. This is the same military that conscripted the Alsa Masa, the vigilantes and the fanatical cults in fighting insurgency. This is the same military from whose ranks—along with the Philippine National Police—bank robbers and kidnap gangs have been recruiting personnel. This is the same military that could not rout a small kidnap gang masquerading as Muslim extremists. This is the same military that has been implicated as accomplices of the Abu Sayyaf.

Why in God's, or Allah's, name should we be happy putting new, and ferociously destructive, toys in their hands? Why in God's, or Allah's name, should we be happy they are being given, like Suharto's "special forces," who continue to terrorize Indonesia even after his downfall, training in special operations by the Pentagon? When the conjuring trick called "anti-terrorism" loses its magic a year or so from now, who will be left to inherit them?

Just as well, look what we've done in the south. We've propped up a warlord by the name of Wahid Akbar and put an entire island under his rule with no holds barred. He can pretty do what he wants there now, and nobody can touch him: he is the official champion in the fight against terrorism. As with Marcos, the cause of the disease is presumed to be the cure. As with Marcos, the American policy is that he may be an SOB, but he is our SOB.

The same goes for Maria Clara Lobregat, a fierce supporter of Marcos, whom the late great Cesar Climaco used to ridicule before he was gunned down by Marcos', well, "special forces." She now is free to rule Zamboanga as she pleases. She is the alternate official champion in the fight against terrorism.

We do not need to look very far to see the implications of this emerging mind-set not only for the future of Mindanao but for the future of the country as well. Early this week, Norberto Manero was acquitted of kidnapping and double murder by a General Santos judge. So were a couple of others, who were Manero's wife Leonarda Lacson, and brother, Artemio Manero. The judge cited lack of evidence. But Manero himself has always prided himself as an asset of the military—he is Commander Bucay, his wife is Commander Inday—who has done what he has done not because he enjoys killing but because he harks to a higher cause. He is a man of honor, he is a man of duty. If an Italian priest's brain happens to get in the way of defending the republic from its enemies, he will despise it and excise it. Better still, he will ingest it and digest it.

His exoneration from a couple of other murders should gladden the hearts of the paramilitary and vigilante groups that are stirring up in Mindanao and repainting their banners from anti-communism to anti-terrorism. They are called upon to defend democracy once more.

A dream come true? It looks more like Nightmare on Elm Street.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Embellished reports

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FREEDOM Force story has entered another phase of embroidering the facts. This time, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino enters the picture.

He is reported in the press as saying that members of Freedom Force warned Jaime Cardinal Sin (presumably at their meeting at Villa San Miguel on April 14) that the Left and the Right had given up on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and a group of generals were planning to take over. Noynoy said the cardinal relayed this message to his mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

This version is a new element in the April 15 meeting and has no factual basis. It is strongly contradicted by Star columnist Teodoro Benigno, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, leader of the Philippine Council for Public Affairs (Copa) and Joan Orendain, who were at the meeting. Saycon tells us that the terms "generals" and "junta" never came up at the meeting. According to Saycon, most of the 20-minute meeting was devoted to Benigno's proposed manifesto detailing his concept of a Freedom Force or Middle Forces that would emerge if a social explosion took place, standing in the way of a power seizure by the leftists or the Right.

The message is Noynoy's own version and interpretation of the dialogue with Sin. He was not at the meeting, so he is feeding the press hearsay. Hearsay is also the basis of Conrado Limcaoco's leak to the press that members of Freedom Force asked the support of Sin in the formation of a junta to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Limcaoco, who has a reputation for inventiveness, was not at that meeting. Worse, he was the source of the planted story quoting Bishop Soc Villegas as having said that the Freedom Force group has sought the formation of a junta.

Villegas was at the meeting for only seven minutes. Limcaoco put words in Villegas' mouth. Villegas later denied he ever said such things. Limcaoco's "plant" has given rise to two possible explanations: first, he was asked by the Palace to spread disinformation to discredit Freedom Force; second, he did it on his own, to ingratiate himself with the President. In any case, his version of the meeting not only was hearsay but also stood on nothing more solid than foam.

Noynoy Aquino's yarn is sheer conclusion without any factual basis. The tale that the Left and the Right had given up on the President has no factual basis. More speculative is the report that generals are plotting a power seizure.

What I'm illustrating here is that a meeting that was basically a discussion of Benigno's concept has developed into a coup nightmare embellished with apocalyptic scenarios.

Malacañang's reaction is revealing. The President took the embellished reports seriously and has warned Freedom Force to stop its "foolishness." The President is jittery, and her nervousness betrays that she is insecure and is paranoid over coup plots. At this stage, the President is likely to see the ghost of a coup plot from every rustle in the bush in the dark.

If Benigno, et al. are planning a coup or a junta rather than presenting a concept to Sin, they must be extremely foolish and naïve to advertise their plot to the nation. Successful coups result from secret plots and the element of surprise. Broadcasting coup or junta scenarios is a recipe for failure and invites ridicule. But the President is so insecure that she would rather believe hearsay than fact. If Freedom Force members want to depose her, why should Benigno discuss his concept with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and why should Saycon report what was taken up at the meeting with Sin? (We reported earlier that Benigno explained his concept to Dick Romulo of the Makati Business Club. In my interview with Benigno, he made a slip of the tongue, naming Dick Romulo. In his TV interview, he said it was Alberto Romulo he had talked with.)

The administration need not be nervous or jittery over ideas. If Benigno's concept is examined closely, it is built on a layer of hypotheses. For example, he makes the prognosis that Philippine society is heading toward a social explosion. This prognosis rests on historical analogy and lacks hard evidence applicable to Philippine condition. The fact that social explosions (read revolutions) took place in France, Russia, Vietnam, Cuba does not make inevitable an explosion in the Philippines. The causes of these explosions and upheavals cannot be replicated in the Philippines.

Hypothesis No. 2 is that the middle forces would emerge as an alternative to the Left and the Right after an explosion. Again, this is not certain. It has not been shown how the "collective leadership" will emerge from the ranks of "patriotic" Filipinos or what will be its shape. The emergence of a collective leadership from the middle ground is problematic in a power struggle between the Left and the Right.

Most probably the well-meaning and messianic middle forces would be crushed in the crunch of the tectonic plates of the Left and the Right in such a struggle. Benigno apparently fears a right-wing takeover and a military dictatorship more than a left-wing seizure. The Right has the military force. The Left is relatively weak and fragmented by factionalization.

Clearly, Benigno's concept is flawed and requires more rigorous construction. It is reductionist and that's why it lends itself to an apocalyptic vision. This concept built on nothing more firm than hypotheses need not worry us or make us waste our precious time. What should worry us is "hearsay-mongering."

The ennui of retirement

HIGH BLOOD

Fernando B. Duque

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I TRIED to retire in June last year. Tried, because I was actually forced to resign by the so-called "terminators" of the company. It is a family corporation and due to a power struggle episode that transpired between brothers in the family, I was chosen from among some managers not belonging to the dominant brother to resign. I would have relished the resignation if I were told that I should leave because of old age, a matter which nobody can refute. Be that as it may, I said to myself, with fierce determination, that this is not the last of my career as I will try to find again a new office where I can invest my experience and qualifications and more importantly, stretch my wobbly legs every working day. Well, I am already past 60, actually 65, and although I know deep down inside me that I am in the prime of retirement age, I still feel physically and mentally able to cope with the unforgiving stress and rigors of everyday office work.

That is exactly what I fear about retirement. I have heard from so many peers and retirees that one should not be a couch potato when one retires because that will surely precipitate the weakening of one's physical condition and put one foot inside the grave

That is why I have to continue my tenpin bowling routine twice a week, badminton games with my wife and the treadmill.

At first, I thought I have to savor for a few weeks my newfound stage of carefree lifestyle—no stress of office assignments to worry about, no deadline to target and no meetings with loads of agenda to prepare. No interviews and discussions with erring personnel and hearings at the labor courts. I handled personnel work in the office and in previous jobs. I especially find very interesting doing interviews with job applicants because I always learn something new from them, the new and first time applicants particularly. I remember one pretty young lass applying for a factory worker's job who looked earnestly in need of earning a living. When I asked her to take a seat to begin our interview, she immediately fired the first statement this way, "Sir, *kailangang kailangan ko ng trabaho. Maski na ho anong* position *basta makapasok lang.*" The double entendre of her plea did not sink in immediately until she left her chair and winked mischievously at me. Well, if virility has not yet deserted me I could have done something about it. But the problem is, even if I am still able to flirt with young chicks in their 20s, I really don't feel comfortable walking with them in public places or dining in a restaurant without being conscious that everybody is looking at me smirking, "*Naku, naka-tisod si lolo ng* spring chicken" or at my companion, "*Naku, nakahuli ng* papa *'yung* chick." Age has really a way of making one uneasy in certain unsuitable circumstances.

But that is digressing so much from the boredom of retirement which I wanted to convey. Still reeling from the resignation which I was determined would not be my retirement, I answered an advertisement in the Inquirer Job Market section placed by a government office calling for a section chief that would deal with personnel. I thought this position fits my qualifications and experience and more importantly, I noticed that there was no age limitation indicated in the advertisement. I called up the person specified in the advertisement as the one to call for details. He seemed so anxious to receive my application when I told him that I held the position of personnel head of several private entities which was what they were looking for. A few days after I sent my application, I received an envelope with the letterhead of the office to which I sent my curriculum vitae. Briefly my hopes soared until the very brief but formal letter opened with the phrase, "We appreciate very much your interest in our office but we noticed that you will be celebrating your 65th birthday next month and that is the compulsory age of retirement for civil service employees." When I showed the letter to my wife, she had a very hearty laugh at my expense. But why do employers put a premium on the younger applicants when the experience of the older generation can accomplish much more for a corporation? It may be the culture in the Philippine employment setting unlike in the United States and Europe where you will not find advertisements indicating age restrictions.

Whenever I encounter friends who are not yet aware that I have retired, the usual question asked is where I am now connected or what office I am working with. The stock answer I always give is "I am already retired, but not tired, only wired." The latter portion referring to my preoccupation with the Internet. My sitting before the computer for hours is not solely concentrated on surfing and e-mails because my computer is stacked with computer games that stimulate and drill my manual and mental dexterity. This balances my physical and cerebral calisthenics.

Now, I can sleep up to my body's content, with no alarm clock to disagree with my waking hours. But my body metabolism seems to be aching for the daily ritual I was used to like an early morning shower, early breakfast and early traffic to the office. I really miss the morning greetings of "Good morning, sir" from my staff and other employees, not to mention the "*tsismis* hour" during lunch break. Now it is only the househelp who gets to greet me in the morning with the question, "*Anong* breakfast *mo*, sir?" And this mundane decorum happens every day of my new retirement life that it makes me think I am functioning in the cold perfunctory manner like a robot whose moves are stoically mechanical. What makes it worse is that I don't have the cheerful delight of the 15th and 30th paydays of the month. And the unpleasant part of everything is that all my children who are all grown-up (naturally, because I am already past 60) are either married and living on their own or are single but out of the country. My only consolation (and that of my wife, too) is that we get to visit them abroad at their expense, with free plane fare and accommodations, of course, plus the joy of playing with our grandchildren.

I am kept to thinking that my senior citizen's card is a concession of sorts to subtly compensate for the boredom of old age and the concomitant inability to make use of the bodily functions that have now worn down. Speaking of a senior citizen's card, I still feel uneasy showing it to the waiter whenever my wife and I go for our regular Saturday dinner, or at the ticket booth of a movie house. But when I take a snack at Jollibee or McDonald's and the service staff asks without hesitation, "Do you have a senior citizen's card, sir?" I know that she is just being polite by not reforming her question to a more affirmative, "I'm sure you have a senior citizen's card, sir. We do honor it here."

Fernando B. Duque, 65, retired as an HRD manager of a family owned manufacturing company. He is now busy handling different labor cases and other notarial work.

A new path

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

N 1978, a month or so before our wedding, my then husband-to-be and I underwent the required "marriage counseling' conducted by an elderly, white-haired priest. At one point during the counseling, the priest asked us: "How many children would you like to have?" Taken aback, I replied, oh, maybe two or three, while my husband said, maybe three or four. To our astonishment, the old priest thundered: "That's the wrong answer! Your answer should be: How many God will give us!"

I've never forgotten the priest's words not only because apparently, the hubby and I were to have no say on how many children we were to raise and nurture (though we were of course expected to play an active role in conceiving them and carrying them to term), but also because his attitude seemed so emblematic of the attitude of clergy, bishops and the Church as a whole toward marriage and parenthood. While I thought husband and wife are partners and indeed active agents in carrying out God's plan for our family, church men apparently believed the couple is little more than a conduit for conceiving, birthing and raising future Catholics.

While paying lip service to the concept of "responsible parenthood," too many bishops and priests, it seemed to me, really believed the right attitude of married couples should be submission to "God's will," uncritically, indeed even passively accepting each and every pregnancy, while doing nothing to prevent subsequent ones. This, even if materially, physically and emotionally, the couple lacked the ability to raise so many children so that they live up to their full potential.

So, while vehemently opposing the promotion of contraceptive methods other than NFP or "natural" family planning, bishops and priests did little to promote NFP among the faithful. Instructive was the experience of a laywoman counselor who agreed to leave Bukidnon, where she had worked on a very successful NFP promotion program, to live in Metro Manila for a year to establish a similar program among the parishes. She left frustrated after less than a year, realizing, she said, that many priests in the archdiocese didn't really believe in the need to promote responsible parenthood among their parishioners.

* * *

I'VE just about given up on the institutional Church on the matter of family planning. But I see a glimmer of hope in the recent issuance of a pastoral letter titled "Natural Family Planning—A Pastoral Approach." Addressed to the prelature clergy, religious and lay leaders of the Prelature of Ipil in Zamboanga, the pastoral letter is signed by Bishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J.

The document does not really represent a breakthrough in Catholic hierarchical teaching on contraception. Basically, it insists that natural family planning is still the right method to be adopted by Catholic married couples. But in terms of attitude and acknowledgement of past mistakes and erroneous attitudes, it blazes a new path, a path that, I hope, will lead to more open and honest dialogue between the keepers of the faith and the faithful they serve.

Bishop Ledesma's letter begins with a recounting of what transpired during a seminar on Family Life and Responsible Parenthood conducted last February in preparation for the Fourth International Meeting of Families to be held in Manila next year.

Some of the "pastoral issues" that emerged during the seminar, said the bishop, were:

• The common desire among young couples to plan the size of their families.

• The prevalence of artificial means of birth control (I think the bishop really means contraception) for lack of any natural methods.

• The condemnatory attitude of some clergy and church workers toward parishioners who have resorted to artificial means.

• The distancing of the Church from the government's population programs because these are viewed as anti-life, contraceptive and coercive.

• The inaction of the local church itself in providing a practical alternative for Christian couples.

* * *

ON THE SECOND day of the seminar, said Bishop Ledesma, participants had a chance to listen to a speaker explain a new approach to natural family planning called the Standard Days Method, more commonly known as the "necklace" method. (I've written on this in a previous column, too.) Other speakers touched on other methods of contraception, their health risks and possible abortifacient effects, while a speaker from the Population Commission explained a "paradigm shift" from population "control" to seeking a balance "among population, resources and environment" in the government's population program.

After these sessions, "practically all the parish priests signified their interest to introduce the NFP-SDM approach in their parishes, but first on a pilot scale." The participants agreed to mobilize their various ministries in the promotion of this new method, recognizing that "family planning (is) a reproductive health issue, needing the support of our CBHP (Community-based Health Program) workers." They are also embarking on a "phase two" of the action plan, bringing the contents of the prelature-wide seminar down to couple-trainers at the district and then possibly parish levels.

But even as they prepare to carry out their action plan, said Bishop Ledesma, "several requests have been made that we clarify the local church's stand on family planning and related issues." This, for me, constitutes the most exciting part of Bishop Ledesma's pastoral letter.

(More tomorrow)

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Useful travel dictionaries

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WEEKS ago I wrote a column on prewar *vocabularios* in English-Spanish-Tagalog-Ilocano-Kapampangan. Naturally, the first step in using these was to go over the words and phrases, comparing usage from past to present. Spelling and some sentence construction were obviously different, but that was not what caught my attention. I got tired of the dictionary entries, but read all the so-called "common" phrases that a tourist would find useful. These helped the tourist haggle for a good price, order food at restaurants and allowed him to make small talk that are now dated pick-up lines.

Some simple and innocent situations in these *vocabularios* when read in our time become awkward and obscene. For example, a dialogue between a tourist and a boy in the street. After pleasantries the tourist invites the boy to sleep in his house. This might have been a kind thing to do 80 years ago, but today the same act will be interpreted very differently.

Reflecting on tourist guides with "useful phrases" today I looked up the very first list of "useful words" in a Philippine language compiled by Antonio Pigafetta in 1521. Pigafetta left us with a chronicle of the Magellan expeditions, even an eyewitness account of the Battle of Mactan. He collected a list of words useful in communicating with the early Filipinos. Remember that Magellan's Malay interpreter, Enrique, is believed to be Filipino. Frankly, I wonder why Pigafetta did not include "useful phrases" in his book that would at least protect later explorers from ending up dead like Magellan. There was no section on words to avoid and flattering lines to use on sultans and datus.

Another book with a list of useful phrases is the two-volume work by Jean Mallat, titled "Les Philippines Histoire, Geographie, Moeurs, Agriculture, Industrie, Commerce des Colonies Espagnoles Dans l'Oceanie," published in Paris in 1846. This compendium of data must have been so useful for Europeans traveling to the Philippines. It contains notes on the various islands and provinces, lists tourist spots and places of interest, and there are sections on wildlife, flora, fauna and the culture of the Filipinos. There are tables for Customs duties and a long section on useful phrases where the French text is printed parallel to translations in Tagalog and Visayan. The section on meals is absorbing:

"Do you wish to take breakfast? What do you wish for breakfast? Bread and milk (*Tinapay at gatas*). Chocolate, biscuits and butter (*Siculate, at broas at mantequilla*). Put a napkin on the table and give us some plates, knives and forks. Wash the glasses. Give a seat to the gentleman. Do you want fresh eggs (*Ibig po ba niño ng itlog na sariua*)? Take this large plate away. Let us taste the wine. Open that bottle. Give me something to drink. Is it good or bad?

"It is time for lunch. Set the table and tablecloth. Serve lunch (*Maghain na cayo*). Put the salt cellar and plates on the table. Wash and rinse the glasses. Scoop us some rice (*Sumandoc ca nang canin*). Put the stools (*taburete*) around the table. Have all the guests arrived? Where are the knives, forks and spoons? Lunch is on the table. Sit at table. You will sit here (*Lumucloc po sila dito*). Two stools are lacking here. Boy, go and get two napkins (*Bata, humanap ca nang dalauang servillete*).

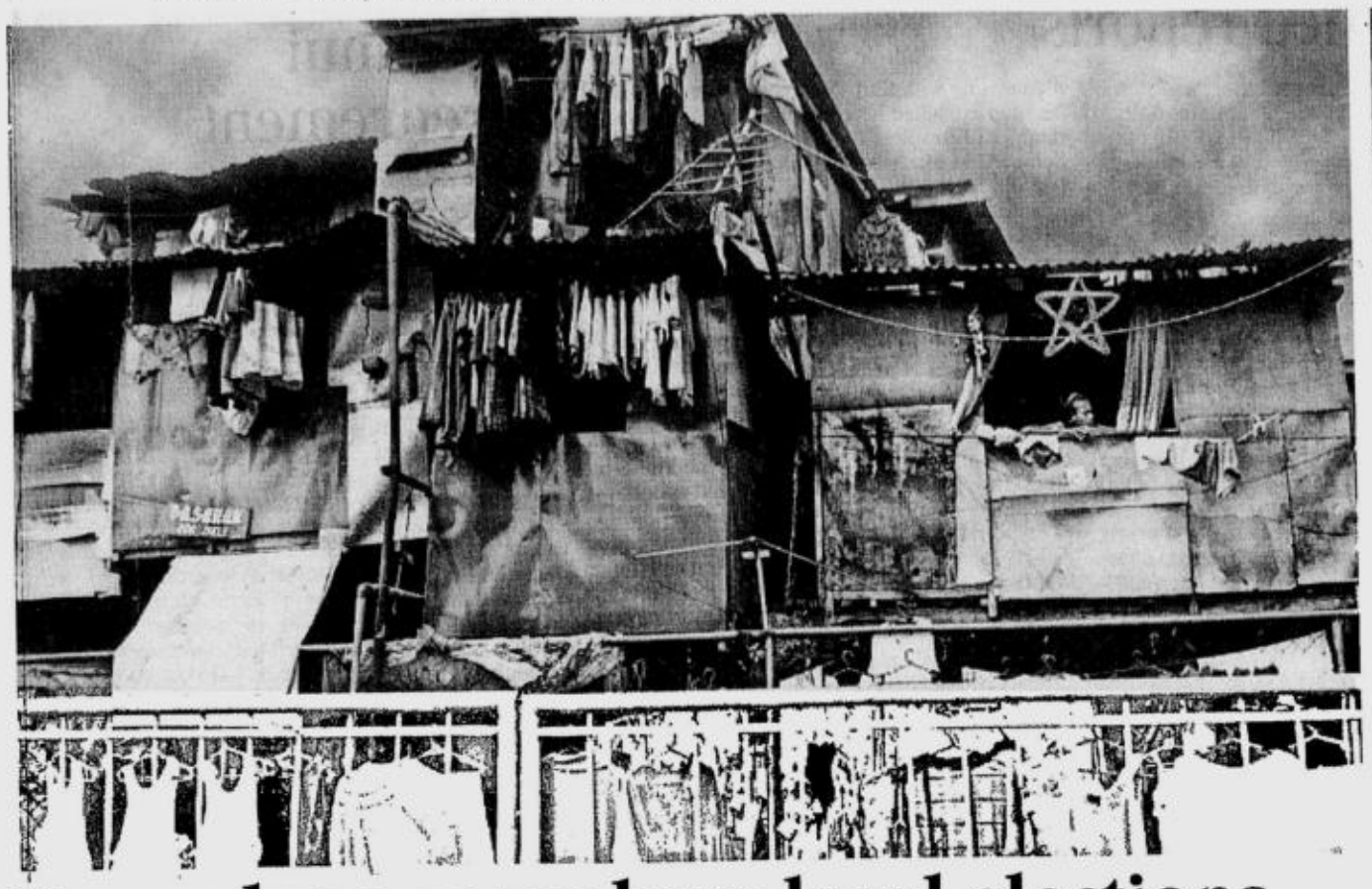
"Do you like *sopas nang mestisa*? Give me some ginger (*laoya*). Get some white bread (*tinapai na puti*) and white rice (*caning maputi*). Do you like the food? Give us a big plate. What good first dishes (*Que buting pagmumula*)! But until now you haven't drank anything yet. Boy, give the gentleman something to drink. Madame, I drink to your health. (*Capitang babae, acopoy iinom sa inongatan*). Let's eat the second service (*Quitay comain nang mga guisado*). Please eat and tell us what you like. I have no appetite. What do you think of this beef tongue (*dila nang vaca*), this *almondigas*, this *pritada*? Do you want to eat *pugo* (quail), *calapati* (pigeon), *pabo* (turkey) or *capon*? What do you prefer, wing or thigh? Give us some sauce (*Biguian mo cami nang zarsa*). Give us a glass of wine (*isang copang alac*). Let us drink together.

"Do you know how to carve (*Marunong ba cayong mag trinchao*)? Taste these pickles (*achara*). Give me that knife. Do me the pleasure of giving me some *cari*. I prefer a piece of beef or pork. Do you like warm milk (*gatas na luto*) or fresh butter (*mantequilla*)? I would like some rice (*arroz*), milk (*leche*) and fresh cheese (*quesong bago*). What fine desserts. (*Que ririquit na postri*)! Fruits go well with the rest of the meal (*Ang manga bungay siyang dapat sa calahatan*). Give me strong liquor (*licor na matapang*). Give the gentleman a clean plate. Clear the table (*nuhat na ang la mesa*). Let us take a walk (*Tayoy mag si pasial sa linang*). I am sleepy (*Acoy nag tutuca*)."

Giving some allowance for the wrong transcriptions made by the Frenchman or his assistant, the above phrases not only give us a glimpse into Tagalog and Visayan usage in the mid-19th century. More importantly, it gives us examples of food, drink and how these are consumed. A tourist phrasebook can actually be another source for Philippine history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph



For as long as we have local elections

THIS is a reaction to the column of Neal H. Cruz on April 16, 2002.

We all know why squatters, (euphemistically called "temporary residents" by politicians in order not to hurt their feelings) are untouchables. These are mean voters who can be swayed to sell their divine rights for a measly P200 more or less.

Cruz hit the nail on the head when he said squatting is more widespread now because of the stupid Lina Law and that other more stupid law that makes squatting not a crime and instead rewards it with incentives.

Let me cite a glaring example: Zuzuarregui Road is indicated in all Quezon City maps as a street that traverses Commonwealth Avenue and supposed to exit on Capitol Hills Road. This road could be an alternate route to relieve the Tandang Sora-Commonwealth Avenue intersection traffic congestion. But some 190 squatter families have been merrily blocking the road during all the tenures of Mayors Amoranto, Rodriguez, Simon and Mathay.

In spite of being offered a free 40 sq. m. of relocation site in nearby Montalban (other relocatees have to pay a monthly amortization) with water supply from four deep wells to boot, plus government trucks to be made available for transfer, the squatters are still adamantly demanding financial aid for the construction of their houses.

By operation of law because they are occupying a government road, they should have been ejected summarily a long time ago. The school year is over so they can no longer give the reason that the children's schooling will be disturbed if they are transferred to their relocation site during these summer months.

But let us not forget, barangay elections are coming again soon! And the barangay chair is running for his third term. We might as well be resigned to the reality that for as long as there will be local elections, squatters will be here to stay!

Or will it be different during Mayor Sonny Belmonte's term?

—CONSUELO D. SISON, administrator, Alpha Village Homeowners Association Inc., Alpha Village, Capitol Hills, Quezon City

Real culprit behind clerical sexual abuses

PLAYING the waiting game, yes, waiting either for the crisis in the lack of adequate pastoral leadership and service to just solve itself, or for the activist married priests to grow old and disappear, has been the Vatican strategy for the last two decades. But the waiting game is no longer a practical strategy to adopt so as to ward off millions of dollars in legal fees and settlements for the victims of clerical sexual abuse. (Time, 3/25/02, "Costs of penance," PP. 47-48)

Now, the Vatican is putting the blame for the current crisis of clerical sexual abuses on the presence of homosexuals in the priesthood and on the inadequacy of seminary training. This Vatican strategy is simply to divert attention from the real culprit of clerical sexual aberrations (promiscuity, rape, pedophilia and ephebophilia or hebophilia), which is mandatory celibacy. (cf. Rev. Dr. Heinz Vogels, "Celibacy: Gift or law?" p.11)

The ulterior motive for the cover-up (silence and payouts of hush money by Church officials) is to keep the façade at all costs and to give the impression that mandatory celibacy is working, when in fact it has been a failure and a scourge since it was imposed in 1139 on an unwilling married clergy. To enforce it, Pope Urban II issued an unchristian decree: "The married priest who refuses to separate from his wife and children will be put in prison, and his wife and children...sold into slavery." (Rev. John Shuster, "39 Popes were married")

The shining examples of the utter failure of mandatory celibacy, which Our Lord Jesus never intended (Mt. 19:11-12) and the New Testament never envisioned (1 Cor. 7:7; 9:5; I Tim. 4:1-4), are Pope Alexander VI who had three mistresses and eight children; Cardinal Hans Groer, former archbishop of Vienna, Austria; Archbishop Juliusz Paetz of Poznan, Poland; Bishops Symons and O'Connell, former bishops of Palm Beach, Florida and so on.

We beg the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, to restore optional celibacy for priests, which was the practice for the first 12 centuries in the Latin or Western Church, and which is still the practice in the Eastern Catholic churches. (Time, 3/25/02, "Let priests marry," P. 48; Time 4/1/02 "Can the Church be saved?" PP. 17 ff)

—REV. DR. NEIL PARADO, revneil@myexcel.ca, www.rentapriest.com/revnei

Bonifacio Monument must be moved

WHERE to transfer the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City by the National Artist Guillermo Tolentino?

The LRT and MRT trains will meet at the intersection of Edsa and MacArthur Highway, unfortunately where the monument is located. Definitely, this will be the second death of the national hero at the hands of politicians.

Time is running short. The government cultural officials are doing nothing even verbally.

I suggested in Neal Cruz's column (PDI, 7/12/01) that the Bonifacio Monument be transferred to Luneta fronting the Manila Hotel. Concerned politicians and citizens replied.

Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo wants the monument transferred to Barangay Tala, north of the city. Sen. Blas Ople objected to the transfer to this remote barangay, formerly known as the Tala Leprosarium. *Baka mahawa pa ng ketong si* Bonifacio. The heirs of the Katipunan (Kaanak) think Barangay Tala is not right. Others want the monument transferred to Fort Bonifacio or the University of the Philippines grounds.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza welcomes the monument and is offering the now beautiful plaza in front of the post office.

Anywhere! Anywhere as long as the monument is removed from Caloocan. The monument must be viewed by all Filipinos.

I suggest that the monument be transferred to the Luneta Park *nang makasinghot naman ng sariwang hangin si* Bonifacio.

Why Luneta? Bonifacio was a Manileño. The monument will be viewed by many schoolchildren who would be inspired to love their country. The youth would be inspired by the heroic deeds of the Katipuneros. This monument is the only great monument we have in the Philippines. At Luneta the monument will be admired by local and foreign tourists. Why keep this great and beautiful monument in its present site?

Mayor Malonzo should not be greedy. Rather, he ought to be more patriotic. Why doesn't he release the beautiful monument from the ugly and dirty rotunda? *Pakawalan na ho ninyo si* Bonifacio *sa pagkakaalipin diyan sa* Caloocan. *Noong panahon pa ng Kastila pinaglalaban na ni* Bonifacio *ang ating kalayaan. Ibigay mo na* Mayor! *Makatikim naman si* Bonifacio *ng kaligayahan.*

At Luneta, Tolentino's masterpiece will be seen by more Filipinos, rich and poor, and they will be proud.

The monument needs a decent place. It was adjudged one of the best in the world. At Luneta the monument will be seen by the world.

We must immediately create a committee to study the problems in dismantling, transferring and casting the monument again. I learned that sculptor Tolentino had the monument's casts made in Italy where he studied. We can ask the Italian government for help.

We need experts. We need the help of everybody who loves great works of art.

—MALANG, 48 West Ave., Quezon City

Home-renters can't return to Baseco

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has said that families who were renting their residences when they were made homeless by the fire in Baseco last March 30 this year will not be allowed to return to the area once it is fixed up. Some 500 families or 22 percent of all the victims are renters. We believe the mayor is making a big mistake.

The mayor's action violates the Resettlement Action Plan signed by the government and the Asian Development Bank in March 2000, which makes no distinction between renter and structure owner. All in the urban renewal areas are to benefit.

It violates the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992. In the act and in the implementing rules and regulations that accompany the act, there is no distinction between renter and structure owner. The word renter is not used.

These reasons are in addition to what should be in a government official's heart, namely to give priority to the very poor. We find no need for the mayor's statement about renters. Why further punish poor people who have already lost all they own?

—ALICIA GENTOLIA-MURPHY, Urban Poor Associates, 28-B Matino cor. Malumanay Sts., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

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Bar owners and managers' side

THIS is my reaction to the letter of Jenny Galvez. (PDI 4/5/02) She stated that, "this (anti-prostitution) bill seeks to penalize the real culprits of prostitution—the bar managers, customers, pimps, recruiters, traffickers, promoters and organizers of prostitution," referring to Senate Bill 1862, which was filed by Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Galvez's statement draws a lot of concern among bar owners and managers in general. For your information, not all bar managers/owners engage in the sex for pay trade. Some are just plain bar managers/owners. This loophole can be exploited by the "wise girls" and authorities especially if they have a grudge against a bar manager/owner to ride on and point to the bar manager/owner as the culprit. The bar managers/owners will be helpless and could be vulnerable to blackmail schemes.

This is just like passing the blame on to somebody other than the original culprit—the prostitutes themselves. These women have the intellectual capacity to resist unless they are forced at gunpoint.

—POMPY I. GADOR, bar owner/manager, Ecoland Terminal, Davao City

Why tax on texting makes sense

THE MACAPAGAL administration's proposed tax on cell phones and text messaging is ironic, but makes perfect sense.

It is ironic because without cell phones and texting, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would not have been President today. The millions who assembled at Edsa last year did so, not in response to a call by a charismatic prelate or fiery opposition figure, but because we received and sent, text messages telling us to go.

But we gathered at Edsa to oust an unworthy president, not to cheer or support his vice president. Ms Macapagal became President not through her leadership or heroism, but because she happened to be the constitutionally mandated successor.

Now she is discovering that her public support has fallen, that the people are growing impatient with her performance. Before the public's disenchantment can overwhelm another unworthy President at Edsa again, it makes sense to tax and limit the use of cell phones and texting.

—J.S. ONG, 13 San Mateo, Barrio Capitolyo, Pasig City

Turning a nuclear tragedy into a new tourism hotspot

CHERNOBYL, Ukraine—Ghost towns, Geiger counters, white masks and rubber boots—Welcome to Ukraine's much-touted new tourist hotspot, Chernobyl.

Equipped with a 13-room hotel, Soviet-style buses and a winding pot-holed road, some tourist agencies in Ukraine hope to make a buck or two out of the world's worst civil nuclear disaster by offering tours around the contaminated area.

FEATURE

Elizabeth Piper

But those adventurous tourists who have fought their fears of radiation sickness and want to see the highly patrolled area all but deserted after reactor number four exploded on April 26, 1986, might find the staff less than welcoming.

"There cannot be family tourism here, we cannot allow walking holidays. There can only be bus tours for about four to six hours," said Mykola Dmytruk, deputy director of the agency which coordinates visits by specialists.

"As for extreme tourism, I am not sure this place is extreme enough. There is not much need for adrenaline on a bus ride...This is a place of tragedy."

Sixteen years on, the tragedy of Chernobyl's exploded reactor which spewed deadly clouds of radioactive dust over Russia, neighboring Belarus and much of Europe is still being lived out by thousands.

Many areas still have dangerously high levels of radiation. Stories of death, illness and poverty pepper conversations. Old women and men have returned to contaminated ghost towns after becoming unhappy with government efforts to resettle them.

The staff, who battle with the stigma of contamination for living in the region and face months of unpaid wages, say the site is best left in the hands of caring scientists who monitor ever-changing levels of radioactivity and still strive to make the area finally safe.

Beer-drinking, smoking tourists, hoping for an adrenaline-boosted thrill by meandering around pinewoods and fields which bloom once again around the encased reactor are not the order of the day, they say.

"There are more interesting places in Ukraine where you can get a trip on a boat, or get drunk," Dmytruk said.

Tacky Chernobyl T-shirts

Agencies have been offering day-trips to Chernobyl for $250 a couple, including lunch—but make sure you are over 18, are not a hippie and do not want to make a tour of the souvenir shops before you leave.

Six people have signed up so far—teachers hoping photographs and first-hand stories would educate their children.

For Dmytruk and colleague Rimma, long-standing workers for Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry in Chernobyl, the idea of tourists having a good time where people perished makes them shudder. They advise a visit to an adventure park instead. And T-shirts and caps with the Chernobyl name emblazoned on the front seem a little tacky.

"The agencies say we should make T-shirts and caps with Chernobyl written on them, but surely they would be bad luck," said Rimma, a bubbly Russian woman dressed in a US camouflage jacket.

"It's like buying a T-shirt with the name of the Buchenwald concentration camp on it."

She is equally dismissive of an idea by the United Nations to promote eco-tourism. The world body described much of the so-called restricted area as an "extraordinary environmental opportunity" in a report earlier this year.

"The natural environment has returned there," Kalman Mizsei, an official of the UN Development Program (UNDP) told a news conference in February.

"It is a huge area that is very natural, with lots of wildlife and unique types of animals."

Rimma calls the idea "stupid" and launches into a joke with her colleague, Dmytruk.

"Hippies are not going to be allowed in. They'll want to lie on the grass and then smoke it," Dmytruk laughed, adding seriously that walking in the grounds without permission could be dangerous for those with a more adventurous spirit.

"The law does not stop adult people from visiting—people who are older than 18 years and who have some kind of interest in this region...The most important thing for this region, is making it safe."

Village visits

But there are those, in tiny hamlets, who would not mind seeing a few new faces banging at their doors.

Seventy-eight-year-old Anastasiya Chikalovets, who was forced to leave her khatta—a small peasant house—in 1986 returned to the village a year later. Now 26 people live in the village, once home to more than 1,000.

"This is the place where I was born," says Anastasiya, who is known fondly by those patrolling the controlled area as Baba Nastya or grandma Nastya.

"But it is sad no one comes here and people just leave, mainly for their graves," she laughs heartily, scraping a pig's guts on a wooden bench to make into sausages later.

"Tourists would be fun. Just come."

She says life is better in the village—a ramshackle collection of tiny cottages empty and often falling down—than in the flat her and her husband were re-settled to.

"Radiation? What radiation? It was a ploy to get money," says Nastya, wearing a colorful scarf around her head, as she walks off to bring some home-made moonshine.

"I took some meat to market and our pork registered a lower radiation level than that meat which came from Kiev."

Baba Nastya would not be on the tour, Rimma says. Tourists would have to stay on the bus at all times, although they would get the chance to see the deserted town of Pripyat, where thousands will never be allowed home.

Yellow water drips on to the broken tiles of what was the main grocery shop in Pripyat, a town which stands almost in the shadow of rector four. The toilets have been ripped out, the refrigerators stripped bare. A small sign dangles over one of the shelves, saying "Children's Food."

The town, now surrounded by barbed wire and watched by checkpoints, was evacuated after the explosion. Many took what they could, but later others have come and trashed rooms in search for something valuable.

Tower blocks stand empty. Apartment doors hang on hinges, the odd boot or children's toy lie underneath shards of glass. Mattresses with their springs showing sag in hallways and the wind screams eerily through broken windows and bare lift shafts.

"Now tourists could come here and see the real Chernobyl...Every person who has a child should come here and understand the tragedy. I doubt they will," Rimma sighs.

"Here you can feel the real pain, can't you?" ***Reuters***

Israeli-Palestine war comes to Manila

THE FIRST Asian Regional Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was thrown into disarray yesterday after the delegates from Israel, Lebanon and Iran figured in a shouting match over the Palestinian conflict.

Tension gripped the grand ballroom of the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Manila when Lebanese delegate Ghazi Zeaiter went on a tirade against Israel in the middle of his country report on Habitat projects in Lebanon.

Zeaiter charged that Lebanon has become an unwilling host to 400,000 Palestinian refugees who have been driven out of Palestine since Israel launched its latest offensives.

Asian regional council chair Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who was presiding over the forum, cut Zeaiter short and told him his comments were out of order because they were not part of the agenda.

"It's my turn to speak. I can say what I want," argued Zeaiter, a member of the Lebanese parliament.

But Biazon insisted the Lebanese delegate was out of order and sought to have his comments stricken from the record.

Enraged, Zeaiter walked out of the ballroom with the other Lebanese delegate, Joseph Assad.

It was at this point that the Iranian delegate, Bahaeddin Adab, interceded for Lebanon, saying the Philippines, being a democratic country, should respect the right of the Lebanese delegate to say what he wanted.

Sensing that it was being ganged up on, the Israeli delegation, led by deputy speaker of parliament Nahum Langental, stood up and asked permission to speak.

A loud exchange of words ensued with both Iran and Israel seeking permission to speak.

To prevent the situation from further deteriorating, Biazon suspended the proceedings.

Biazon, together with Senate urban planning, housing and development chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan, gathered the delegates in an executive session.

Emerging from the 20-minute meeting described by Pangilinan as "tense," all parties agreed to just submit their written comments on the Palestinian conflict and how it has affected housing and Habitat projects in Lebanon.

Israel was allowed to defend its position, also in writing. ***Rocky Nasareno and Christian V. Esguerra***

Printers decry lack of work

EMPLOYEES of the National Printing Office (NPO) are complaining of lack of work.

The NPO employees are up in arms against Director Melanio S. Torio, whom they blame for the situation at the NPO, which celebrated its centenary last year.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, the printing operators claimed the farming out of printing jobs has left them with nothing to do.

Farming out is a term used to refer to job orders that were not accepted by the NPO for some reason but were referred to private printers.

The employees said this system was open to corruption. They accused Torio of farming out job orders for his personal benefit.

Torio was quick to belie the workers' accusations, calling them fabricated and malicious. ***Michael Lim Ubac***

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel delays UN Jenin probe

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Tanks and troops killed three Palestinians in raids on West Bank villages on Wednesday as Israel tried to impose conditions on a UN mission due to investigate events at the devastated Jenin refugee camp.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Israel to cooperate with a UN fact-finding team into events in the Jenin refugee camp, the scene of fierce fighting between troops and Palestinian gunmen in a three-week-old West Bank offensive.

Israel told the United Nations it had changed its mind and would not admit the fact-finding team to the Jenin refugee camp unless it included military and counter-terrorism experts.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, meanwhile, said he was shocked at conditions in Yasser Arafat's besieged Ramallah compound after meeting the Palestinian leader for 90 minutes.

"I was very, very shocked to see the situation in which Arafat finds himself. I do not think that this leads to a resolution of any problems," Solana told reporters after meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Tel Aviv.

The UN Security Council called another emergency meeting on the Middle East crisis on Wednesday at the request of Arab nations, upset over Israel's continued siege of Arafat's headquarters.

In Bethlehem, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators ended a second day of talks without agreement on the fate of dozens of wanted Palestinian gunmen holed up in the Nativity church along with about 200 clerics, church workers and Palestinian police.

Palestinian negotiator Salah Taamari said the talks concentrated on evacuating two Palestinians and an Israeli soldier wounded in a gun battle that erupted as the talks were about to begin. One of the Palestinians later died.

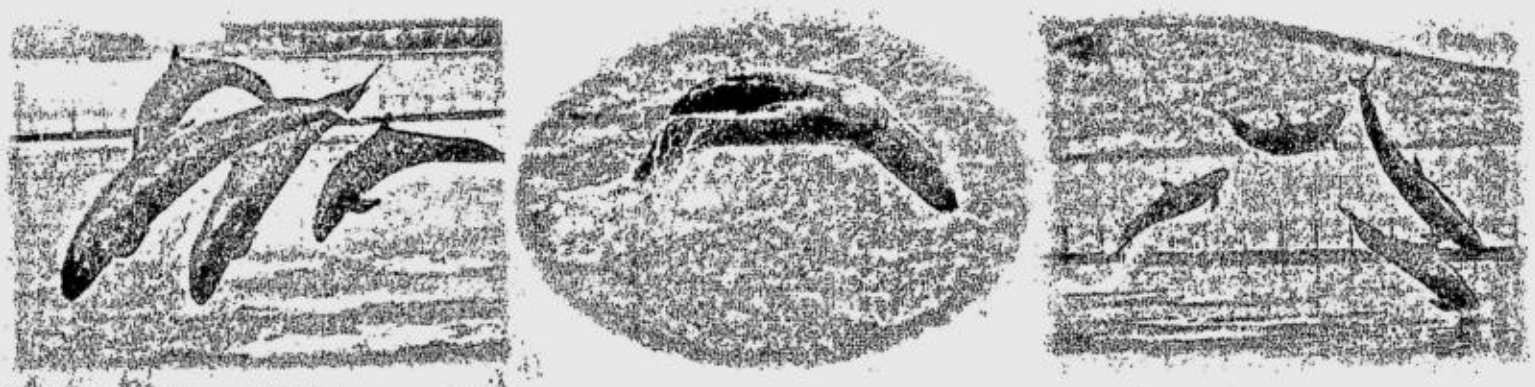
The gunmen later agreed to release 10 to 15 youths from the besieged shrine and evacuate two corpses, the Israeli Army said.

An Army spokesperson said the release would take place early on Thursday.

Israel has insisted the wanted men surrender, giving them a choice between trial in Israel or exile. Palestinians want them sent to Gaza to face Palestinian justice. ***Reuters***

NEW KING REUTERS

Malaysia's new King Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, 58, kisses the royal long dagger "keris panjang diraja," a traditional Malay warrior's dagger symbolizing grandeur and power, during his installation as Malaysia's 12th king, at the National Palace, in Kuala Lumpur, April 25.



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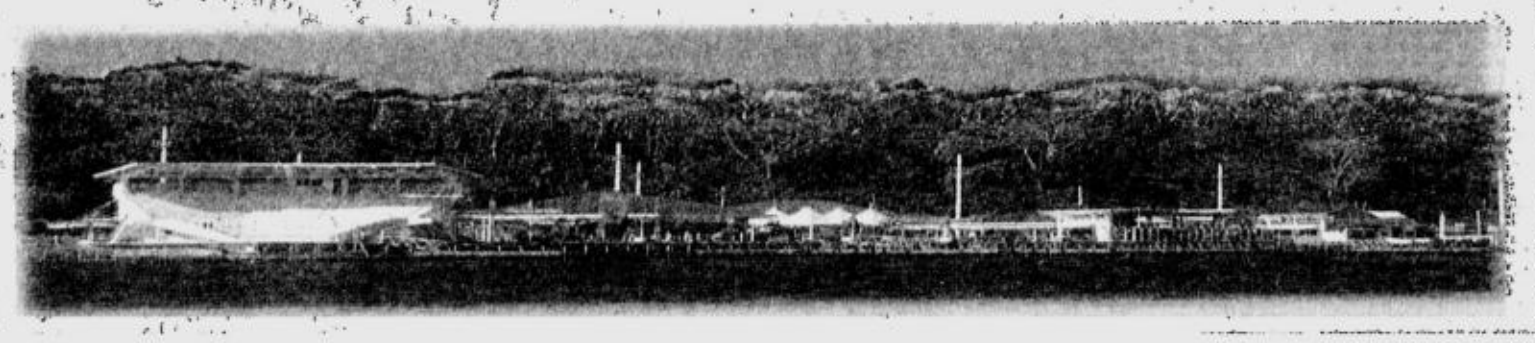

Palestinian court sentences Zeevi killers

RAMALLAH, West Bank—A Palestinian military court convening in President Yasser Arafat's headquarters on Thursday handed out jail terms to four men for last year's killing of an Israeli Cabinet minister, the Palestinian Authority said.

In a statement, it said the judge, Brig. Gen. Ribhi Arafat, had sentenced the four men to prison sentences ranging from 18 years with hard labor to one year for the assassination in October of far-right tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi.

Israel, which sent tanks to Arafat's compound in Ramallah on March 29 at the start of a sweeping West Bank offensive launched after a spate of suicide bombings, has said it will keep Arafat confined until he hands over the militants for trial in Israel.

The radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said at the time it had killed Zeevi in revenge for Israel's killing in August of its leader, Abu Ali Mustafa.

There was no immediate Israeli reaction to the news of the Palestinian trial of the four PFLP militants held in Ramallah.

"The military field court held in the Mukata (Arafat's headquarters) on Thursday sentenced the defendants in connection with minister Zeevi's killing," said the Palestinian Authority statement.

It said Hamdi Qar'an had been sentenced to 18 years in jail with hard labor, Bassil al-Asmar to 12 years with hard labor, Majdi Irshemi to eight years, and Ahed Abu Ghalama to one year.

The statement said the defendants had been represented by a military lawyer, Muath Younis, while Captain Salim al-Madhoun had led the prosecution. Arafat ratified the sentences, it added. ***Reuters***

Tensions loom in Bush-Saudi prince meeting

WACO, Texas—Officially, US President George W. Bush and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah are meeting Thursday (Friday in Manila) to advance the Mideast peace process. But a growing number of conflicts, and Bush's strong support for Israel, threaten to overshadow the talks at the president's ranch.

It was Abdullah who gave momentum earlier this year to an initiative meant to quell Mideast violence by offering peace and full recognition to Israel in exchange for the territory Jordan and Syria lost in the 1967 war.

But the crown prince was delivering a warning to Bush that America's backing of Israel was damaging prospects for peace.

Abdullah's plan also includes the creation of a Palestinian state, for which Bush has voiced support. Also under review is an international conference on Mideast peacemaking. Bush so far has been noncommittal.

"The main advice will be that America must be engaged, America must restrain (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon, America must put the peace process back in its proper track because American interests and American credibility and the credibility and interests of America's friends and allies in the region are suffering tremendously as a consequence," Adel Al-Jubeir, foreign policy adviser to the crown prince, said this week on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." ***AP***

Ex-Yugoslav Army commander surrenders to UN war crimes court

BELGRADE—Former Yugoslav army chief of staff Dragoljub Ojdanic, wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kosovo, left Belgrade for the Netherlands Thursday to surrender to the UN tribunal in The Hague.

Ojdanic, indicted along with former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic—currently on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)—was among 23 indicted war criminals given three days to voluntarily give themselves up by the Yugoslav government last Wednesday.

The retired general, apparently in a good mood and smiling, was accompanied on the regular Yugoslav airline plane flight to Amsterdam by his wife and his lawyer.

"I greet you and I wish you and the Serbian people luck. Remain united," Ojdanic told reporters at Belgrade airport, before passing through passport control.

Ojdanic, wearing a black leather jacket, refused to say whether he would testify against Milosevic, but insisted he would use the "transcripts" of his talks with retired US general Wesley Clark, who was Nato commander during the 1998-99 Kosovo war. *AFP*

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US cardinals stop short of 'zero tolerance'

VATICAN CITY—US cardinals recommended a special process for defrocking serial pedophile priests and weeding out likely offenders Wednesday, after a two-day meeting here on the child sex abuse scandal rocking the Catholic Church in the United States.

But the cardinals, in an often vague and heavily nuanced document, left to an American bishops meeting in June a decision on whether to introduce a "zero tolerance" policy for clergy who abuse children.

The head of the US Episcopal Conference, Bishop Wilton Gregory, told reporters Wednesday that while he personally backed zero tolerance, "that certainly will be one of the hotly debated questions" at the June meeting in Texas.

Bishop Gregory said there was a growing consensus, certainly among the faithful, among the bishops, that it's too great a risk to assign a priest who has abused a child to another ministry. That's clear."

Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick said the Pope seemed to have been clear on the issue.

"I think if you're looking prospectively, if you're looking to the future, I would say it's pretty clear, the Holy Father is calling for zero tolerance."

Pope John Paul II, who addressed the meeting on Tuesday said: "People need to know that there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young."

But cardinals were unable to agree if this meant a "one-strike-and-you're-out" policy for offenders.

"The question of the reassignment of those who have harmed children is certainly uppermost in our minds, however the specific resolution to that particular question will be finalized when the bishops meet in June."

A document released after the unprecedented crisis meeting fudged the issue, and appeared to leave the door of the Church open to penitent offenders.

"We cannot underestimate, in the words of the Holy Father, the power of Christian conversion, that radical decision to turn away from sin and back to God . . ." the cardinals said, highlighting the Pope's own words in the same address Tuesday.

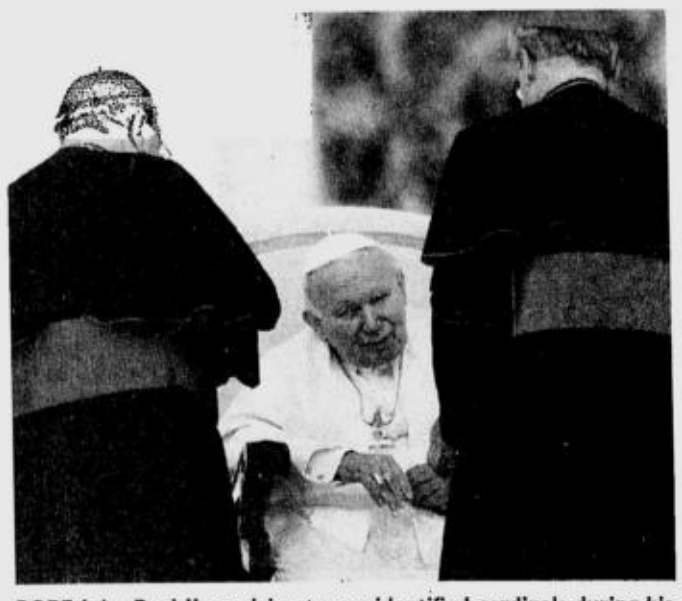
The document was the result of two days of deliberations in which the Church, under a degree of media scrutiny rarely seen at the Vatican, was under intense pressure to be seen to act on the sex-abuse issue, which has rocked the American Church to its foundations.

Meant as a guideline for adoption by the June bishops' conference, cardinals meeting here said the document had implications for the entire Catholic Church, which is facing similar scandals in a number of countries, among them Ireland, Austria and Australia.

The document proposed "a special process" for the dismissal of a priest who has "become notorious and is guilty of the serial, predatory, sexual abuse of minors."

The cardinals also proposed that bishops should take a more pro-active role in weeding out latent or suspected child abusers.

They recommended "a special process for cases which are not notorious but where the diocesan bishop considers the priest a threat for the protection of children and young people, in order to avoid grave scandal in the future . . ." *AFP*



POPE John Paul II receiving two unidentified cardinals during his weekly general audience in Saint Peter's Square April 24. AFP

Tycoon blasts off in Soyuz space rocket

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—When you are 28 years old, single, articulate, good looking and worth more than $500 million, the world is pretty much your oyster. But Mark Shuttleworth set his sights further afield.

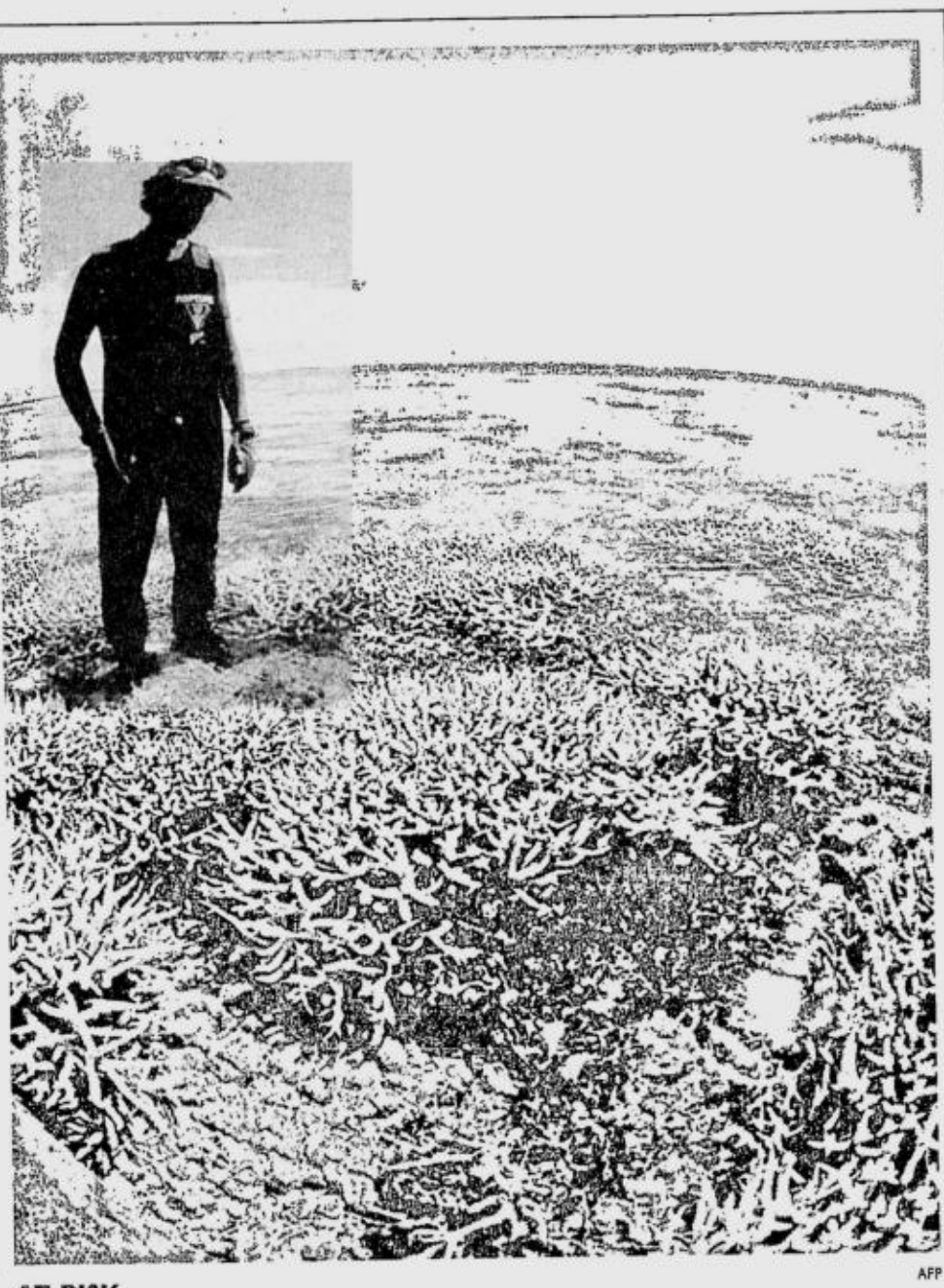
On Thursday, the South African Internet tycoon fulfilled a childhood dream when he blasted off in a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on a voyage to the international space station.

The trip will cost him about $20 million, a small fraction of the more than $500 million he earned when he sold his Internet security company to US-based competitor Verisign in a deal that stunned South African markets.

Shuttleworth describes himself as "just an ordinary guy," who enjoys daydreaming, lime marmalade and Frank Sinatra and believes in aliens. But colleagues and friends say he is a remarkable entrepreneur, with an extraordinary ability to absorb and understand complex information.

Born in the dusty South African mining town of Welkom, Shuttleworth grew up in Cape Town. His fascination with technology began when he discovered computer games, but he expanded to subjects as diverse as particle physics, software engineering, digital media and biotechnology.

Shuttleworth studied for a business degree at the University of Cape Town where he first encountered the Internet. In his final year of study he founded Thawte Consulting, an Internet consulting business, in his parents' garage. *AP*



AFP

AT RISK
A Greenpeace diver inspects corals of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in an undated photo. Scientists fear the weather phenomenon El Niño could wreak havoc across enormous tracts of the reef, one of the world's natural wonders.

Cardinal at center of scandal lies low

By Crispian Balmer

VATICAN CITY—If there was one person reporters yearned to grill about the American Catholic Church's pedophilia scandal, it was the man at the center of the storm—Cardinal Bernard Francis Law of Boston.

But despite earlier assurances, Law failed to appear at a final news conference after two days of emergency talks at the Vatican, leaving his colleagues to take the flak for a crisis that he in many ways created.

His failure to appear in public during the two-day summit did nothing to diminish media speculation that he would eventually have to quit over his highly criticized handling of the child abuse controversy.

On the eve of the Vatican summit, one US newspaper reported that some cardinals planned to ask Pope John Paul to remove Law to assuage public anger over a scandal that has dealt a devastating blow to the prestige of the American Church.

But it remained unclear if such a petition was ever delivered and US clergymen refused to be drawn about Law's future, despite relentless questioning from the press.

"The situation belongs exclusively to the Holy Father and to Cardinal Law. The issue of Cardinal Law and his service to the archdiocese of Boston was not discussed," said Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the US Bishops Conference.

Court documents showed that 70-year old Law allowed two priests with known sexual problems to move around from parish to parish without alerting local churchgoers.

In one case he even promoted a man who had admitted to sodomizing boys and vocally advocated sex between adults and children, and then allowed him to receive a glowing recommendation when he was transferred to a California parish.

As US Church officials gathered in the Vatican earlier this week ahead of their watershed summit, Law reportedly told them that without his "terrible mistakes" they probably would not be in their current predicament.

"He apologized for that," said Cardinal Francis George of Chicago. Other cardinals said Law was eager to remain in charge of Boston, believing it was his duty to sort the problem out.

"I think he feels it's like a moral obligation because he was the one who was there when it happened and he wants to fix it," said Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington D.C.

But judging by reporters' questions at the final press conference on Wednesday the issue over Law's future in the Church hierarchy is not about to fade away.

One reporter said that leaving Law in charge of his Boston diocese was like asking former US President Richard Nixon to clean up the Watergate scandals, while another questioned if the Church could regain its credibility with Law still in place. *Reuters*

FBI agents warned of possible terror attacks on malls

WASHINGTON—The FBI quietly warned its agents of unconfirmed information from a captured senior al-Qaida official that terrorists may be planning attacks against supermarkets or shopping centers, law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

The warning, sent Tuesday to all FBI field offices and relayed to some state and local police, cautioned that the information was unsubstantiated and did not include specific information about possible targets, timing, numbers of people involved or any particular method of attack.

The warning said that al-Qaida operatives inside the United States might be planning attacks against civilian targets, possibly including banks, shopping centers, supermarkets and shops, law enforcement officials said. The information came from Abu Zubaydah, the highest-ranking al-Qaida leader in US custody, they said.

The information that prompted the new warning was considered less reliable than last week's about possible attacks on banks in the northeastern United States.

"We're trying to downplay this," said one law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Unlike last week, the latest warning was issued only to FBI field offices, which quietly relayed the information to local joint-terrorism task forces typically made up of state and local police agencies.

"There is no official alert," a law enforcement official said.

Also Wednesday, the state department alerted Americans abroad that terrorists may be preparing to strike, especially in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

"There is growing concern," the department said in a statement.

It cautioned Americans to be careful and said "softer targets" may be selected by terrorists because security at US installations has been strengthened.

Last week, authorities cautioned that they similarly had no information about a specific plot or threats to any specific financial institution. But the FBI warned publicly about possible "physical attacks," based in part on information from Zubaydah, two officials said. But it was unclear if he was telling the truth, and officials said he could be lying in an effort to create a panic. *AP*

New clashes jar riot-torn India state

AHMEDABAD, India—Four people were injured in fresh Hindu-Muslim clashes overnight in India's western state of Gujarat which has been racked by nearly two months of religious violence, police said on Thursday.

Two were injured in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main commercial city, when police opened fire to disperse a rampaging mob who burned houses. Two others were stabbed in clashes in the nearby state capital, Gandhinagar. There were no deaths.

"There were some (Hindu-Muslim) clashes overnight but it's quiet now," a senior police official in Ahmedabad said. "Police and paramilitary are patrolling to keep things quiet."

Thirty-four people died between Sunday and Tuesday in the biggest flareup of violence since India's worst communal bloodshed in a decade erupted in late February.

More than 850 people, most of them Muslims, have died so far in the violence, many burned alive and their houses and businesses destroyed by Hindu gangs.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government faces an acrimonious debate in parliament next week over its failure to contain the bloodshed. *Reuters*

Le Pen's politics dangerous for France, says Chirac

LE PEN (seated) listening to speeches during the plenary session of the European Parliament in Brussels April 24. AFP

PARIS—Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right politics are "dangerous" for France, President Jacques Chirac said Wednesday, adding that he feared the effect they would have on the country.

"I want to express my concern to all French, a very big concern, about the rise of the extreme right in our country," the current conservative head-of-state said on state-run France 2 television.

"The experience of each democracy shows that when the extreme right has taken power, things ended very, very badly," he said.

His interview came a week and a half before he confronts Le Pen in run-off elections that will decide who will be France's president for the next five years.

Polls indicate Chirac will easily win the May 5 election after left-wing parties pledged their vote for him purely to keep Le Pen, a 73-year-old ex-paratrooper running on an anti-immigrant, anti-EU ticket, out of power.

Le Pen surprised the country and the rest of Europe by leaping past Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and 14 other candidates in qualifying elections last Sunday to win the right to challenge Chirac, 69.

When questioned as to whether he feared Le Pen because of his refusal Tuesday to a customary televised debate before May 5, Chirac chuckled and said: "I don't fear him. But I have fear of the extreme right, for France."

He said France's principles and its image abroad had already been "shaken" by Le Pen's unexpected success and that, if his rival took his job, the country would be on "a dangerous path."

Chirac noted that anti-Le Pen protests by tens of thousands of people, most of them students, had taken place every day since last Sunday. And although he called their rallies a sign of "effervescence," he said he hoped they would not spill over into widespread violence.

In an effort to attract voters swayed by Le Pen's tough law-and-order message, Chirac emphasized his own platform which called for a reinforced judiciary and police and a "ministry of security" that would have a direct line to the presidency. *AFP*

AFP

WORLD'S BIGGEST
Tokyo Sunshine International Aquarium employee Yoshiko Takeda displays a young Giant Spider Crab, which is 1.5m in length, at the aquarium April 25. The aquarium displays the world's biggest crab which is about 4m in length.

Food crisis in Africa only months away–WFP

JOHANNESBURG—If desperately needed food aid for millions of people in southern Africa fails to arrive in three months there will be an utter disaster, a United Nations World Food Program official said on Tuesday.

Crops have failed in the region, in some cases for two years in a row, because of poor summer rains. This, combined with political problems and foreign currency shortages, has caused food to run out in at least six southern African countries.

"We still have time to avert a major crisis and avoid hunger-related deaths. If in three or four months nothing happens, we will have an all-out disaster on our hands," said Judith Lewis, the WFP's regional director for eastern and southern Africa.

The WFP has sent teams to Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe—in order of the severity of the problem—as well as to Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, to assess how many people need food and how much food, Lewis said in an interview.

Results of the assessment would be released around mid-May.

The WFP is already running emergency feeding programs for 2.6 million people in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"There is every indication that that number will escalate drastically," Lewis said.

Families in some of the five countries Lewis has visited in recent weeks have been reduced to eating roots, berries and boiled leaves.

"It is really very, very bad," Lewis said.

She spoke of reports of men diving for roots in crocodile-infested rivers and women working 12 hours a day for two weeks, carrying water to sell for a handful of maize meal.

Some 500 people in Malawi have died from starvation and related illnesses in the four months to March, the country's Vice President Justin Malewezi said last month.

The WFP has said it estimates 1.1 million Zambians need emergency food this year, but the number could rise because some areas affected by drought have still to be assessed.

Zimbabwe, racked by political turmoil since early 2000, may have to import between 1.5 million and 2.0 million tons of maize and aid agencies estimate that more than a million people face food shortages.

The Mozambican government and aid agencies estimate there are tens of thousands of hungry people in the east African nation, but there are no clear figures.

Heavy rain and hail have damaged crops in Lesotho, which normally imports about half its food needs from South Africa.

Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili has announced a state of famine and 34,000 people need food urgently. He said Lesotho faced a cereal deficit of 220,000 tons.

Swaziland's Noah Nkhambule, the principal secretary for the agriculture ministry, has said there will be a more-than 80,000-ton maize shortfall this year to meet domestic needs of about 157,000 tons.

Lewis said the response to appeals for money and food for the existing feeding programs had been sluggish, with the slowest response being for Zimbabwe. ***Reuters***

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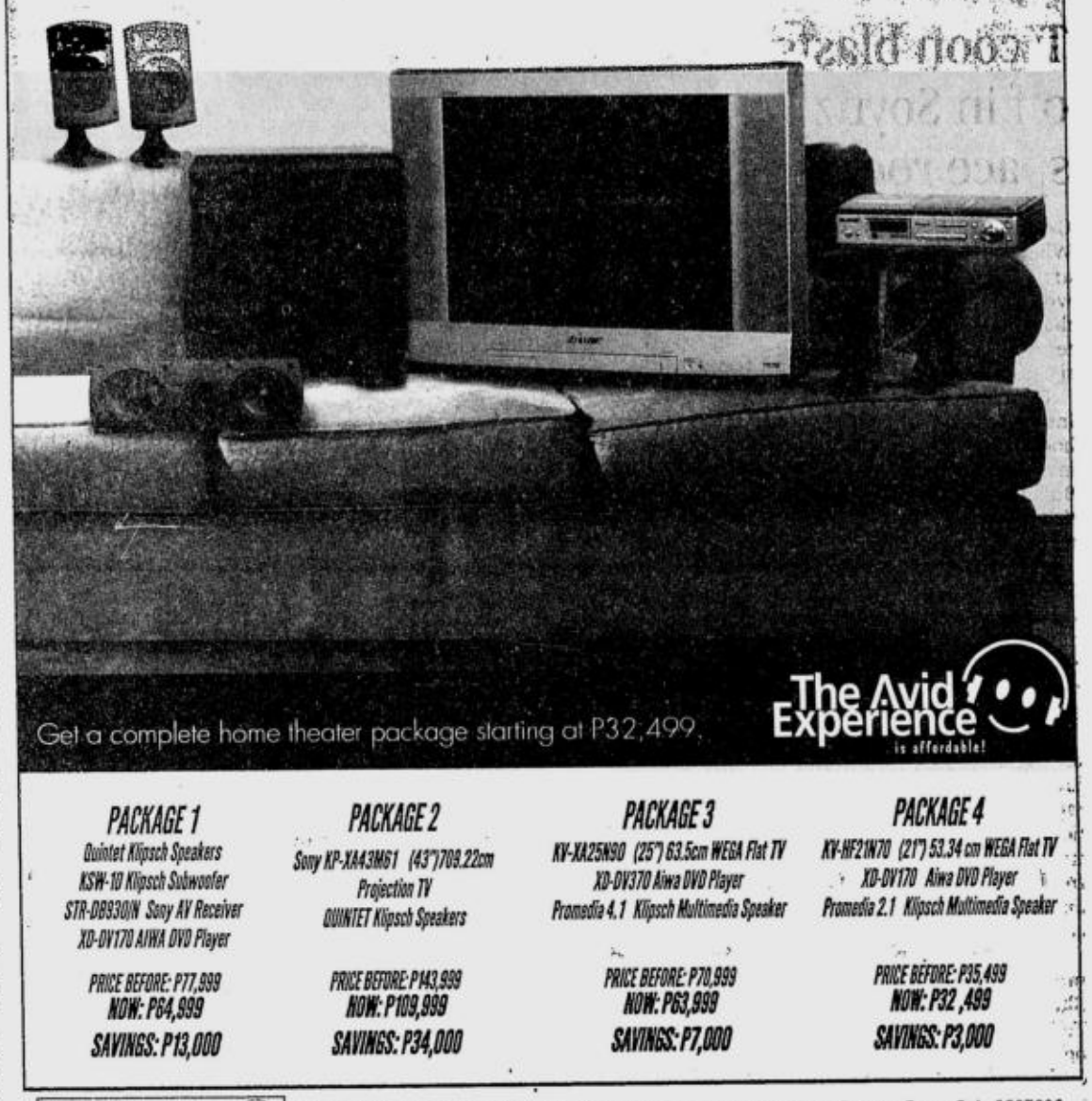

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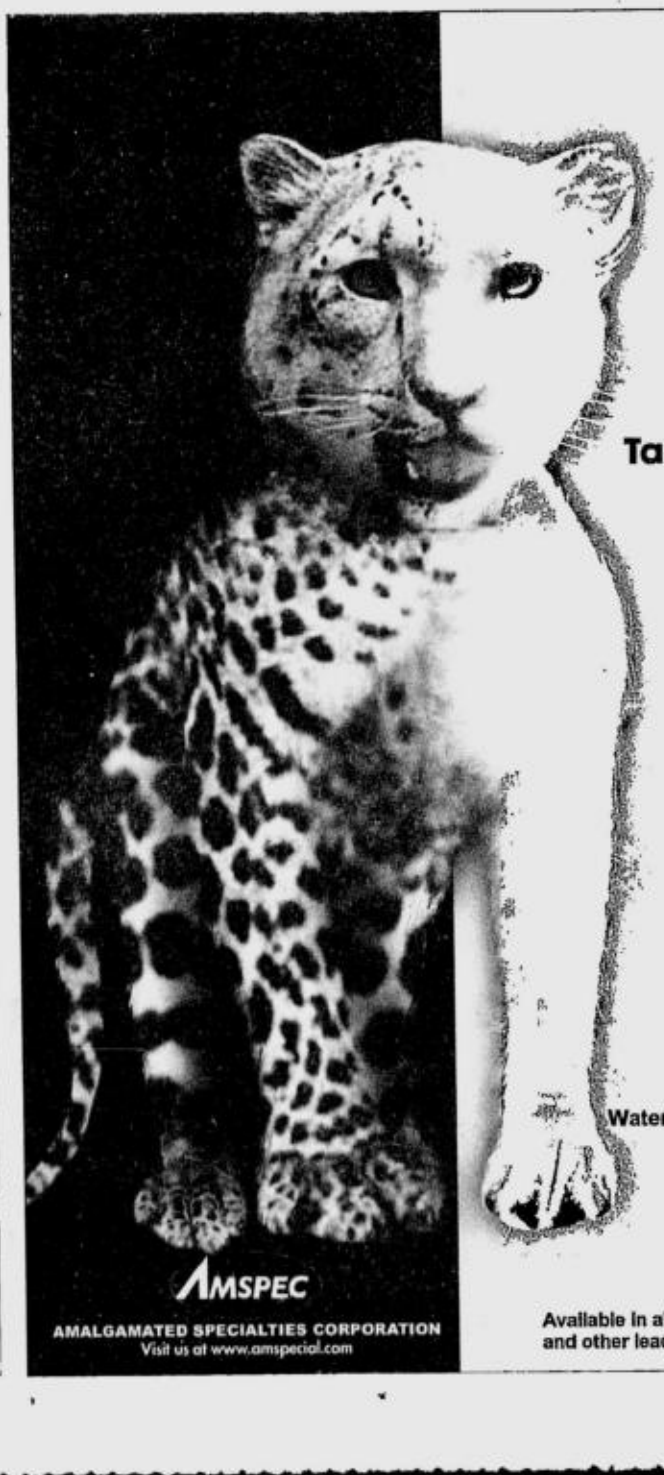

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Judge in Mt. Diwalwal mining case shot dead

DAVAO CITY—Motorcycle-riding men shot and killed a regional trial court judge in Nabunturan, Compostela Valley early yesterday morning.

Judge Eugenio Valles, 62, of the RTC Branch 11 in Nabunturan, was jogging in Purok 7 in Barangay Sta. Maria at 5:15 a.m. when the gunmen blocked his way and shot him.

Supt. Jaime Morente, police chief for Compostela Valley, said Valles suffered five bullet wounds in the head.

Valles was dragged into the mining conflict in Mt. Diwalwal in Monkayo town when he rejected a petition of small-scale miners for a temporary restraining order on a cease-and-desist order issued by Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes.

Brillantes ordered that operations of gold processing plants in Diwalwal be stopped because of environmental issues.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, said they were looking at several possible suspects in the killing, including members of small-scale miners' groups.

Valles had reportedly received threats to his life since coming out with the ruling not favoring the miners. But he had refused to have policemen as bodyguards.

Valles was supposed to be accompanied by a private bodyguard, but the latter was absent on that day because he had just been bitten by a dog.

Morente said the judge's neighbors claimed that unidentified men had asked about Valles' whereabouts the past days.

Morente said several witnesses were willing to give the physical identities of the perpetrators for sketches.

Brillantes linked the killing to the Diwalwal issue.

"This is what Franco Tito (barangay chair of Diwalwal and one of the convenors of the Mt. Diwata Coalition) was referring to in an open letter to the INQUIRER, that it will be bloody," Brillantes said.

Brillantes said the Diwalwal conflict had already claimed many lives. He cited the ambush on a former Davao del Norte police chief and the death of Monkayo Councilor Joel Martin, who was gunned down in front of the municipal hall.

Brillantes claimed he was on top of the hit list of rival miners.

Tito denied that he was behind Valles' killing.

He said although they did not like Valles' decision, there was no need for them to resort to killing the judge.

"What would I get if I killed Judge Valles?" he asked.

Tito and Matillano recently engaged in a verbal tussle over allegations made by Tito that the police have done nothing on the Diwalwal row and even accused Matillano of favoring Brillantes.

Valles is a native of Mati, Davao Oriental.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippine (IBP) in Davao Oriental condemned the killing.

In a statement, it said: "This atrocity only means the ever existing evil in our society that resorts to violent means in getting things done."

The IBP in Southern Mindanao also denounced the killing as "another assault on the independence of the judiciary."

The famed gold deposits on Diwalwal have continued to draw small-scale miners who build homes and camps on the mountain despite repeated landslides and threats to their safety.

In another decision, the Mines Adjudication Board (MAB) excluded a 729-hectare area from the application of a firm for a mining permit. ***Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Muslim traders want Mindanao to become RP's 'halal' capital

DAVAO CITY—Muslim businessmen are pushing for Mindanao to be the *halal* food production center in the country.

Jamil Hamza Olermo, chair of the Muslim Business Forum (MBF), said they were urging the government to declare the island a *halal* food base since it is where most of the country's Muslim citizens reside.

"With the rising demand for *halal* food in the international market, Mindanao, which has an agri-based economy, can develop its own *halal* food industry and become a stronger player in the global food trade," Olermo said in a press release.

Olermo said Mindanao Business Council (MBC) chair Joji Ilagan-Bian has called for the accreditation of Mindanao as the center for *halal* food.

This recommendation was among the resolutions presented by Bian to President Macapagal-Arroyo on April 3 at the 4th Mindanao Food Congress held in Cagayan de Oro City.

The resolution also requested the government to conduct the pilot tests of *halal* food certification in Mindanao, Bian said.

Food products prepared in accordance with Islamic guidelines and suitable for consumption by Muslims are designated *halal*.

These are free of any ingredients identified as *haram* (prohibited), which include liquor and pork and its derivatives like ham, lard and bacon, blood and blood by-products, and gelatin.

The Center for American Muslim Research and Information estimates that the international *halal* food trade is worth $150 billion a year, with the buying power of Muslims in the US alone pegged at $12 billion. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Burned bodies could be those of Bayan members

By Abner Bolos
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GERONA, Tarlac—A secluded piece of land here where several people were killed and burned may hold the answer to the case of four activists reported missing since early February.

A fact-finding mission initiated by the human rights group Karapatan-Central Luzon on April 24 revealed that at least 14 rifle-wielding men went to an isolated area in Barangay Padapada on Feb. 12 and 26 and burned their captives using wood and tires.

Charred fragments of human skeletal remains, burned pieces of wood and remnants of tires were found in two areas some 20 meters apart on the land owned by the family of Mayor Harmes Sembrano.

Leopoldo Trevino, Padapada barangay chair, told members of the fact-finding mission and reporters that he and nine other barangay officials were patrolling the area shortly before midnight on Feb. 26 when a white Kia van and a maroon pick-up loaded with wood and tires arrived in the village.

He said they were about to approach the vehicles when 14 rifle-wielding men in military uniforms alighted from the vehicles and positioned themselves around a portion of the hilly ground.

Crying

Being unarmed and fearing for their own safety, Trevino said they hid among the bushes a few meters from the armed men and later heard banging sounds and the victims crying in pain.

"At about 12:30 a.m. (Feb. 27), we saw a huge fire burning and later smelled the stench of burning flesh," Trevino told mission members and reporters.

He said they saw three Toyota Revo vans leaving the area at dawn of Feb. 27. He said they presumed that the vehicles used a road on the opposite side of the village. He said all the vehicles did not have license plates.

Pastor Diony Sanchez, an officer of Karapatan-Tarlac, told the INQUIRER that while there is yet no proof on the identities of the victims in Gerona, "there is a strong possibility that they are indeed the four missing activists based on circumstantial evidence already gathered."

Sanchez said they are still awaiting the results of forensic and DNA tests on the bodies to confirm their identities.

"Based on the description of a witness, it appears that one of the victims was Juan Sario Orcino," Sanchez said.

Orcino and Honorio Ayroso were allegedly abducted by Army soldiers in San Jose City on Feb. 9, but military and police officials in Central and Northern Luzon denied the involvement of Army soldiers in the supposed abductions.

Missing

Reported missing since Feb. 4 were Rowena Bayani and Edwin Villaruz who were allegedly abducted by Army soldiers in Aurora.

Trevino said Sembrano was angry at the incidents and had long wanted to fence off the property to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

More than 50 people joined the fact-finding mission. They included relatives of the missing persons and representatives from the Gerona municipal health office and the local police.

SPO1 Pepito Borja, community relations officer of the Gerona police, said he was not aware of the results of the investigation of the incidents. Employees at the mayor's office here also denied any knowledge of the burnings.

Land reform draining funds of Land Bank

DAVAO CITY—The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has been losing a lot of opportunities for investments because of its advances to the national government for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Land Bank president Margarito Teves said since August of 1998, the government-owned bank has been using its diminishing funds for CARP.

He said it was estimated that by the end of this year, the advances made to CARP are expected to reach P4.3 billion.

From 1998 to 2001, the total advances made by the bank to the government for its payment to landowners amounted to P2.3 billion.

"There are many opportunities lost. Instead of the bank using those funds for our clients for capitalization, they are used to pay the landowners," Teves said.

Land Bank was originally created under the Agricultural Land Reform Code in 1963 but its main function was limited to the purchase of private lands for distribution to small farmers.

However, in 1995, Republic Act 7907 was enacted, which amended the bank's charter and enhanced its viability to provide financial to farmers and fishermen in the country. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Arrest warrants out for cult head, bodyguard for parricide

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Arrest warrants have been issued against cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. after parricide charges were filed against him in court for the killing of his wife.

Cebu Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Galicano Arriesgado also ordered the arrest of Juryven Padero, Ecleo's bodyguard, who was charged with murder for allegedly conniving with Ecleo in killing Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in January.

Arriesgado issued the warrants on Wednesday afternoon after the city prosecutor's office filed the charges in court. No bail was recommended for the accused.

But Ecleo Jr.'s lawyer, Orlando Salatandre filed a petition to dismiss the case before the Cebu RTC, claiming that the prosecutor's office erred in considering circumstantial evidence as sufficient to establish probable cause against his client.

The decomposing body of Alona, 27, was found inside a garbage bag that was dumped in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town, 85 kilometers south of the city, on Jan. 8. Her family reported her missing on Jan. 6.

Autopsy reports showed that Alona died from strangulation.

Her family tagged Ecleo, 42, as the prime suspect. Ecleo is the Supreme Master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association based in Surigao del Norte and was a former mayor of San Jose, Dinagat Island.

He had denied killing his wife. But he refused to cooperate with police and was believed to be hiding in Surigao.

Acting City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa formed a three-man panel to conduct the preliminary investigation of the charges against Ecleo and his bodyguard.

The panel later recommended that the case be sent back to the police for further investigation and case buildup. They noted that the motive for the killing was not established. The team also said no one saw the actual killing or dumping of Alona's body.

But Assistant Prosecutor Nicolas Sellon, who reviewed the panel's findings, found that there was probable cause to file charges against Ecleo Jr. and Padero. Sellon's recommendation to file the charges was approved by Pedrosa.

Pedrosa explained that Sellon gave weight to the statements of Alona's brother, Josebil, who lived with the couple in their house in Barangay Guadalupe.

Josebil claimed that Ecleo Jr. was acting strange on the night of Jan. 5. He also heard noise inside the couple's room that night.

Lingayen folk honor the sea through feast

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—It all started with a simple thanksgiving rite.

Every May 1 in the early 1960s, fishermen in two villages here trooped to the shores of the Lingayen Gulf to pay homage to this vast sea space, the main source of their livelihood.

They offered a prayer as thanksgiving for the endless bounties of the sea, partook of a modest meal, then dipped into the water that they believed possessed healing powers on that day.

From the villages of Pangapisan and Maniboc where the tradition started, the *Pista'y Dayat* (sea festival) soon spread to the entire coastline of Lingayen.

The local government took the cue and adopted the festivities, adding colorful events to lure tourists to the town's beaches.

The other coastal towns followed and adopted the *Pista'y Dayat* celebrations through their versions of the revelry.

Now, the festival has become Pangasinan's grandest tourism event. Every May 1, when the country is busy discussing the problems of the labor sector, Pangasinan is in a festive mood, with every corner of the beach (and even rivers and creeks) teeming with residents and visitors enjoying the sun, sand and the sea.

Degraded

Unlike in the 1960s when the Lingayen Gulf teemed with fish, the gulf is now considered "environmentally critical," beset with problems like illegal fishing, pollution and over exploitation.

With these problems, the provincial government had to make the *Pista'y Dayat* attuned to the gulf's needs and adopted festival themes such as *Dayat Tayo, Aroen Tayo* (We must love our sea) and *Say Dayat, Bilay* (The sea means life).

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the festival would feature the "Linis Dayat" or the search for the cleanest coastal town, an effort of the provincial government to inject environmental issues into the festivities.

Agbayani said the activity is actually done year-round but it culminates with the awarding ceremonies on May 1.

"This stresses the provincial government's thrust to save the Lingayen Gulf from further degradation," he said.

Agbayani has been urging residents and officials of the nine towns and two cities facing the Lingayen Gulf to "actively participate in the crusade" to save the dying gulf.

Events

Except for the *Linis Dayat* (sea cleanup), the various events in the annual festival are aimed at enticing people from other provinces to visit Pangasinan's beaches.

The activities include competitions on sand sculpting, painting, photo, drum and lyre, street dancing, *bangkarosa* (float parade), kite flying, painting, boat racing and exhibitions on radio-controlled air plane flying.

A trade fair at the provincial capitol grounds here was opened to feature the province's handicraft, souvenir items, pottery, wood and shell crafts, and processed food.

Three beauty pageants will also highlight the celebrations.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon and Visayas will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 38° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/26/02

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Dry spell mild, but DA chief urges people to prepare for worst

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Although the coming El Niño phenomenon has been predicted to be moderate, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor still urged the public to prepare for the dry spell "as if it will be very, very severe."

"It is wise to prepare as if it will be severe, because if we think it is going to be mild and it turns out to be bad, then we will have difficulty," Montemayor told reporters on Monday.

He said the dry spell is expected to hit the country in the last quarter and to last until mid-2003.

"As we move closer to the last quarter, we will have a sense of how severe or not the El Niño will be," said Montemayor, who was here for the distribution of tractors to Mill District Development Councils.

But he quoted the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration as saying the dry spell would not be as severe as the one that hit the country in 1997 and 1998.

Still, he added, it would be wise to prepare for the worse.

Montemayor said the government has been preparing for the El Niño since last year when the Pagasa declared that the dry.spell would hit the country in the last quarter of 2001.

He said the government accelerated the repair of irrigation systems that service 80,000 hectares of farmland.

The Department of Agriculture also gave funds to the Pagasa for the agency to buy more computers to ensure a more detailed weather forecast during the El Niño, Montemayor said.

This, he added, would enable governors, who head provincial disaster coordinating committees, to prepare for the dry spell.

In areas where there will be lack of water, he said, farmers are advised to plant crops that do not require much water, like sweet potatoes, in place of palay.

"In areas where there will be severe drought, we will have to put in place alternative livelihood projects," he said.

Montemayor said he expected agriculture to grow by 2.7 to 3.7 percent, but this will depend on the effects of the El Niño.

TOOTS SOBERANO

TUG OF WAR
Policemen play a game of tug-of-war with members of the Cordillera People's Alliance who held a lightning rally in Baguio City recently to protest ongoing war games in Mindanao and Luzon.

FIGHT FOR LAND

Hunt on for killers of 2 Manobo tribesmen

By Joey R.B. Lozano
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DON CARLOS, Bukidnon—Following a failed raid on their lairs by a team of National Bureau of Investigation agents and the local police, a manhunt was launched for the three suspects who murdered two Manobo leaders here.

Although the law enforcers left empty-handed, the raid nonetheless raised hopes among tribal and other community members who said the attempt to arrest the murderers was long overdue in an "area where guns rule."

The suspects, reported to have connections with some members of the police and who are reportedly engaged in highway robberies, cattle rustling and other illegal activities, were identified in the warrants of arrest as Dionesio Salcedo, his brother Florencio Salcedo and Ramon Clementir.

The three allegedly shot Ananias Tahuyan and Rodolfo Dasig of the San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers Association on Oct. 13, 2001 while they were on their way to join a group that was conducting a GPS (global positioning system) survey of their claimed ancestral land.

The suspects were unaware that a number of the victims' companions, including a son of Tahuyan, were able to hide after the initial burst of gunfire.

Others near the area also saw the suspects leave the scene of the murder.

Assistant Prosecutor Phoebe Loyola-Toribio said the suspects acted with "treachery and evident premeditation" in killing the victims.

Acting Presiding Judge Jesus Barroso of the Malaybalay Trial Court issued the arrest warrants on April 10 and these were sent to the NBI on the same day. Murder is a non-bailable crime.

The incident "could have just been one of those killings," said members of Nakamata, a coalition of indigenous peoples organizations in Bukidnon to which the victims belonged.

The Inquirer, quoting local leaders and residents, earlier reported that more than 100 killings in the area where the recent murders were committed had remained unsolved.

The more than 2,000-hectare land is the former Bukidnon Farms Inc. (BFI), now commonly called "Cojuangco," after its former owner Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco, a Marcos crony and major financier of Joseph Estrada in his successful bid for the presidency in 1998.

The BFI was sequestered in 1988 and its land was ordered to be distributed to qualified beneficiaries. It is now "a monumental showcase of a failed land reform" because of the Department of Agrarian Reform's alleged failure in preventing squatters from occupying large tracts of land, said local officials and residents.

Police, soldiers and politicians reportedly back the squatters.

Most of the area has been converted to sugar cane plantations. The illegal occupants, mostly armed with high caliber firearms, fought for ownership of the land, sometimes resulting in deaths.

Manobo members also claim portions of the area as their ancestral domain. Attempts by the tribe to occupy the land have led to killings.

At least 26 Manobos have been killed in the area, says Nakamata coalition chair Datu Winefredo Sumael.

The death of coalition members Tahuyan and Dasig sparked protests and letters of concern from national and international groups. Nakamata is a partner of Witness, a New York-based organization that supports groups and individuals for human rights advocacy.

Witnesses earlier released footage taken right after the murders.

The 10-minute footage on the killingshas also been uploaded in Witness' Website, which has a record hit of at least one million viewers per month.

Driver who died in rob try honored

COTABATO CITY—Vice Mayor Japal Guiani Jr. on Wednesday announced that the city council will pass a resolution commending a jeepney driver who lost his life when he tried to save a businesswoman from being robbed by an armed passenger.

But even before the resolution is passed, Rosary Heights V barangay chair Rodolfo Maglalang already initiated a "*piso-piso*" donation for others to give their share for the slain driver, Phil Andig. The victim left behind a wife and three children.

Maglalang said his voluntary contribution of P500 to the Andig family might prompt his constituents to offer even a peso to show their gratitude for the heroic deed.

Witnesses said the unidentified robber shot Andig in the head when the driver refused to let go of the businesswoman's handbag containing an undetermined amount of cash, checks and valuables.

PO3 Nasrodin Kasim, who is investigating the case, said the businesswoman, identified only as Ms Oliva, was aboard Andig's jeepney on the way to the Notre Dame Village when the robber grabbed her bag.

Andig was quick to respond in retrieving the bag, causing a brief tug-of-war with the armed robber, prompting the latter to shoot the driver in the head.

An agent of the National Bureau of Investigation and a number of police and military men, who happened to be near the crime scene, chased the robber.

Trapped in a residential compound on Sinsuat Avenue and Gutierrez Street, the gunman fought, prompting the lawmen to shoot him.

Mayor Muslimin Sema, who rushed to the scene, said the robber was the same man who killed a jeepney driver in front of the Cotabato City State Polytechnic College on April 20. ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mango growers suffer from glut effects

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—While consumers continue to savor the sweet carabao mangoes of Pangasinan this summer, producers are not smiling.

Reason: The glut in mango production in the province has depressed prices of mangoes in the market.

Jose Almendares, provincial agriculturist, said carabao mangoes are sold in the province at P10 a kilogram to P30 a kg for export-quality mangoes.

He said the prolonged dry season has contributed to the glut as the dry months are favorable to producing mangoes.

"Without rains, three to four fruits develop for every mango flower. There are also fewer diseases of mango trees during the dry season," he said.

Almendares said a carabao mango is oblong and has a round base and rounded cheeks. The fruit has smooth, bright yellow skin and its flesh is tender and sweet when ripe.

The provincial agriculture office recorded a harvest of 20,000 metric tons of carabao mangoes in February. Almendares said the figure could be higher as it was only during March and April when a glut in the production of carabao mangoes was observed.

"At P10 a kilo, mango producers break even in their production cost," he said.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the provincial government is planning to help mango growers process their produce to give the fruits added value, especially when prices go down.

He said the Department of Science and Technology would extend technical assistance to local mango producers while the provincial government would help market the products. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gloria declares Antique, Aklan jungles protected

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

PANDAN, Antique—Conservation efforts in one of the remaining low-elevation forests on Panay Island yesterday got a shot in the arm after President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed a natural park forested area in the provinces of Aklan and Antique.

The President declared protected the 12,000-hectare area comprising the Northwestern Panay Peninsula. The site includes the towns of Nabas, Malay and Buruanga in Aklan and the municipalities of Libertad and Pandan in Antique.

Ms Macapagal made the proclamation during yesterday's joint celebration of Pandan's municipal government and religious fiesta. She became the first president to visit this town, 124 kilometers north of the capital town of San Jose.

The President was accompanied by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Antique officials led by Rep. Exequiel Javier and Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

Residents, environmentalists and officials, who have been working for the proclamation for years, welcomed the President's announcement in the jampacked public plaza.

Pandan Mayor Plaridel Sanchez VI said the proclamation will boost the town's efforts to apprehend encroachers on the area.

Samuel Koffa, project leader of the European Union-Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (EU-ARCBC) Integrated Conservation and Development Project, said the proclamation will "give us authority to apprehend loggers, miners, and encroachers."

"We had been working for the protection of this area for years but we could not stop them," he said.

But he admitted that the proclamation would not totally remove threats to the area. "The most important thing is what we do now . . . to enforce the (laws)," he said.

He said it was necessary to change the people's perception of the environment and conservation efforts by teaching and training people in the communities.

For years, environmentalists and non-government organizations, including the Bioresource Conservation Trust of the Philippines Inc., have been working to protect the area.

The place is home to a variety of endangered species and the last of the relatively intact watersheds in Panay, which are vital to efforts to protect a number of endemic species of birds and animals.

Among the endangered species are the Visayan tarictic hornbill, writh-billed hornbill, Negros bleeding-heart pigeon, Visayas spotted deer, Philippine hawk eagle, white-throated jungle flycatcher, and the Visayan water monitor.

Since the 1990s, the area, described as "one of the precious jewels of the country," has been threatened by *kaingin* (slash-and-burn farming), timber poaching, mining prospectors and extensive hunting.

During the ceremony, the President gave out checks worth P126,000 for the stage project of the Bulanao Elementary School in Libertad town and P150,000 for the Clean and Green program of the Bugang River in this town. The river was recently named one of the country's cleanest rivers.

Ms Macapagal also handed out P200,000 worth of fishing materials for fishermen in Pandan and Libertad towns and 100 bundles of fish nets worth P120,000 for the towns of Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao under the Support to Milkfish Fry Gatherers program.

The President also gave health insurance to 915 beneficiaries from Laua-an town and 932 recipients from Valderrama town.

Complaints pile up over noise of aircraft in war games

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Although the actual aviation exercises of the Balikatan 02-2 have yet to start, complaints against the loud noise of United States military aircraft continue to mount in this town located just outside the former Clark Air Base.

On Tuesday afternoon, two large US military helicopters that looked like Super Stallions flew over the residential areas of Barangay Dau at low altitudes.

The two helicopters were flying side by side as if they were staging a surprise air-to-ground attack, residents said.

The loud noise produced by the low-flying helicopters prompted several residents in Barangay Dau to come out of their houses. Some cursed and complained that the aircraft were flying too low.

C-130 cargo planes also flew repeatedly over this town on Tuesday and Wednesday, to the disgust of some residents who could not hear the sound of television shows that they were watching due to the aircraft's noise.

Philippine Navy Lt. Mary Nancy Pastor of the Balikatan 02-2 information bureau told the Inquirer that the US military aircraft's flights over this town could be just part of what she described as "preparatory proficiency training."

She said American and Filipino participants to the Balikatan usually test their aircraft "before the actual (aviation) exercises."

The aviation-related exercises here and at Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac, have yet to be scheduled, Pastor said.

Last Sunday, US Marine 1Lt. Neil Peterson of the Balikatan 02-2 information bureau said the US military aircraft here would also provide logistical and related support to US troopers training with Filipino soldiers in Ternate, Cavite, and Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City.

Former Mabalacat Councilor Jad Dayrit, now the executive assistant of the mayor's office here, said residents of Barangays Poblacion, San Francisco, Mangalit, Mamatitang, Sto. Rosario and Sta. Inez had complained about the noise of the US military aircraft going in and out of Clark to ferry US soldiers and equipment for the war games.

The complaints came even as Ambassador Jaime Yambao, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), gave assurance that communities around this former US Air Force base should not worry about noise pollution from the 45 US military aircraft taking part in the exercises.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing in Clark Field, said residents outside Clark should get used to loud aircraft noise because it would be part of their daily lives once the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport becomes fully operational.

The DMIA is being planned to become an international and domestic gateway.

"Everybody wants the DMIA to be fully developed and operated. If this happens, big aircraft will regularly land and take off at the DMIA on a 24-hour basis. People should get used to aircraft noise," he said. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Doy Laurel: Legal battle 'far from over'

From page A1

the case to the Supreme Court as a whole "to enable the other 12 justices to rule on a very important constitutional question."

"I feel very strongly that the three justices erred in their decision," he said in reference to Associate Justices Santiago Kapunan, Reynato Puno and Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago. The three—all members of the tribunal's first division—had ruled that as NCC chair he was a public official, and was therefore open to suit by the Ombudsman.

The decision paved the way for Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to file graft charges against Laurel in connection with the alleged bloating in 1998 of the cost of the "Freedom Ring" of the Centennial Exposition in Pampanga from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

The decision, which was promulgated on April 12 but released to the media only on Wednesday, also lifted the injunction issued by the Supreme Court last Sept. 24.

But according to Laurel, the decision of the three justices that the NCC was a "public office" failed to take into account that the tribunal itself had designated two of its associate justices to serve in the commission as members.

He said that in naming two of its members to the NCC, "did not the Supreme Court point the accusing finger to itself because the Constitution prohibits the court from designating any member to any other government agency?"

Laurel said that if he—who was no longer a public official when he assumed the NCC chairmanship in 1993—indeed became a "public officer, was I the only member of the (NCC) that became (such)?"

"What about the rest of the more than 40 other NCC commissioners who represented the private sector . . . Did they also become public officers?" he said.

Following the same argument, he said, the Senate President and the Speaker also violated the constitutional prohibition against members of Congress holding any government office because they designated senators and congressmen to represent Congress in the NCC.

Laurel said the three justices of the first division "sidetracked the most important issue" he had raised—"that the Expocorp (Philippine Centennial Exposition '98 Corp.), which awarded the contract for the construction of the Freedom Ring, was a private corporation at the time, and, as such, was not subject to the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman."

"Had the three justices addressed the crucial question, they would have had to reckon with the unanimous decision they themselves handed down in the same division last Feb. 6," he said.

Laurel was referring to Macalino vs. Ombudsman Desierto case, in which the tribunal ruled that a corporation that was not created through an act of Congress was a private corporation and consequently beyond the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

According to Laurel, the three justices also "completely ignored the undisputed fact" that the Ombudsman had dismissed all the charges against all the respondents—former President Fidel Ramos, former Expocorp president Teodoro Peña, and Asia Construction Development Authority (Asiakonstruct) president Edgardo Angeles.

"If there is no case against all the other respondents, with whom could I have conspired?", he said.

'Improper' forum

In dismissing Laurel's petition for a permanent injunction, the Supreme Court said it was "not the proper forum" to decide on the other legal issues he had raised.

The tribunal did not give credence to Laurel's assertion that the NCC was not a public office and, thus, the Ombudsman had no authority to investigate and subsequently indict him.

It said the NCC had performed executive functions, and noted that the President, upon whom the executive power is vested, created the commission by executive order.

"Clearly, the NCC performs sovereign functions. It is, therefore, a public office, and petitioner, as its chair, is a public officer," the tribunal said.

However, it declined to discuss other legal issues such as those related to the Expocorp and the question of whether Laurel received compensation or not as NCC chair.

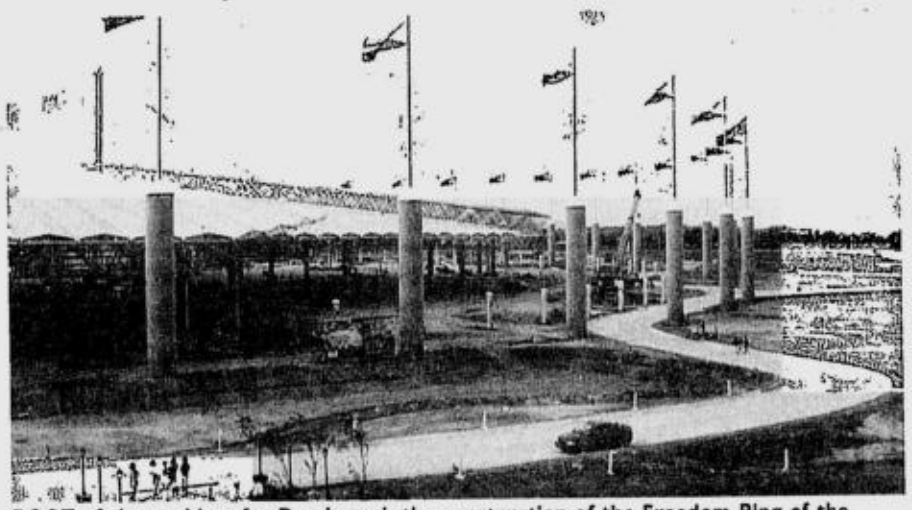
"Granting that petitioner did not receive any salary . . . Would such bear any significance?" the high court said.

On Dec. 4, 2000, Desierto announced the filing of the graft charges against Laurel before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly bloating the Freedom Ring budget more than fivefold.

Desierto said Laurel also allegedly gave unwarranted advantage to a private party when he awarded the Freedom Ring project to Asiakonstruct.

Laurel filed a petition for certiorari to block the Ombudsman's investigation. Subsequently, on Sept. 24, 2001, the Supreme Court's first division issued a temporary restraining order to prevent Desierto from initiating criminal charges against the former Vice President.

After Laurel filed the petition, Desierto deferred the actual filing of the complaint in deference to the high court.



ROOT of the problem for Doy Laurel: the construction of the Freedom Ring of the Centennial Expo at Clark, Angeles City, Pampanga.

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Burnham family . . .

From page A1

March 26 that the hostages would be freed soon.

"But it now seems that they do not intend to keep their promise to us," Paul Burnham said. "Can any family believe the promises of the Abu Sayyaf in the future?"

Burnham did not say what the agreement with the Abu Sayyaf was but in late March, there were reports from the United States that a ransom had been paid for the three hostages. The Burnhams were abducted from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27 last year, while Yap was among the hostages taken during the so-called siege of Lamitan, Basilan last June.

Extra demands

Paul Burnham called the station to say that extra, unspecified conditions were added to the deal that he said was finalized on March 13.

"The family of Martin and Gracia are deeply saddened and disappointed to learn that the Abu Sayyaf has broadcast its intention to continue holding Martin and Gracia and Deborah Yap until additional demands are met," Paul Burnham said in a statement carried by the station.

It was unclear how or where the bandit group had broadcast that intention.

He said the deal had been reached through Sulaiman on March 13. He said Sulaiman told the family on March 19 that the Abu Sayyaf had agreed to a five-day window on freeing the hostages.

"On March 26, Abu Sulaiman advised us to tell Martin and Gracia's children that they would be released soon," Paul Burnham said. "The children and the family have been anxiously waiting for them to abide by their word."

"Is it futile to make agreements with them?"

Martin's mother, Oreta, also spoke to the radio station, addressing the hostages.

"We love you and miss you," she said. "You've been gone so long. And it's been hard for you. You are not forgotten. I love you very much and hope to see you very soon."

Reached in Wichita, Kansas, the Burnhams confirmed they called the station but declined to comment further.

Delicate stage

On April 12, senior US officials said they were monitoring negotiations for the Burnhams' release that were being conducted by a group known to the rebels and that the talks were at a delicate stage.

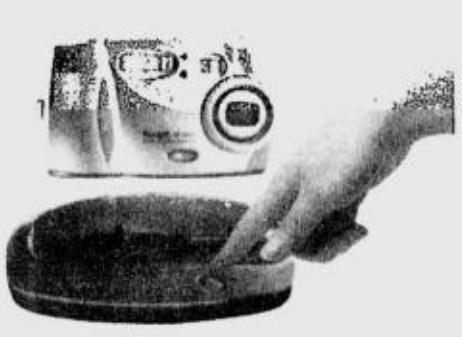
The discussions involved possible payments of several hundred thousand dollars and other considerations, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. One official said the negotiations were being monitored by the highest levels at the White House, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies.

The Abu Sayyaf has been dragging the hostages through the jungles of Basilan Island, pursued by thousands of troops.

US Special Forces also are on Basilan for a counter-terrorism training exercise aimed at helping Filipino troops wipe out the Abu Sayyaf, which the US government believes is linked with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network. *AP, AFP*

A PROMISE broken for the Burnhams' release.

Shoot



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Erap leader falls

From page A1

his arrest might have on his group. PMAP is virtually leaderless now," said Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, chief of the Intelligence Group (IG).

Delfin recalled telling Lumbao that police had mounted a massive manhunt for him because "you kept taunting us on radio." To which Lumbao replied: "I wish you had not taken me."

Following his arrest, Lumbao was brought to the IG headquarters in Camp Crame for interrogation and then to Branch 27 of the Manila Regional Trial Court, which issued the warrant for his arrest.

Lumbao, who was in checkered polo and gray shorts, was charged with rebellion before the Manila RTC. The crime is non-bailable.

The bespectacled Lumbao did not speak to reporters while inside the chamber of Judge Teresa Soriaso.

Clinched fist

Even if he was handcuffed, Lumbao occasionally raised his clenched left fist and said a few words to his followers. Among those in the crowd was his wife, who openly wept when she saw Lumbao.

Security was tight at the Manila City Hall as PMAP members and relatives of Lumbao picketed the entrance to the court. Twenty anti-riot policemen stood outside the court and refused to allow Lumbao's supporters to get near.

Some 50 supporters of Lumbao shouted "*Tuloy ang laban* (Continue the fight)!" and "*Palayain si Lumbao* (Set Lumbao free)!" as the suspect was led into the courtroom.

Rallying point

House Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said Lumbao's arrest could be used as a "rallying point" by PMAP and Estrada supporters.

"They might even make him (Lumbao) a hero," Remulla said.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen questioned Lumbao's arrest as President Macapagal-Arroyo had already "exonerated" from any wrongdoing those who marched on Malacañang last May.

Dilangalen cited the President's State of the Nation Address in July in which she said that the poor came to "deliver a message" and that "100 years after they revolted to establish a nation, they have yet to partake of the national dream."

He quoted the President as saying, "*Dinig na dinig ko ang pahayag nila at napakumbaba ako* (I heard their message and I was humbled)."

Police officials sought to downplay the arrest, saying that it had nothing to do with the coming May 1 rally.

"We're just doing our duty. Nobody is above the law. If you have a warrant, then we will arrest you," Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said at a press conference.

Jeopardized

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), however, said that Lumbao's arrest jeopardized PMAP's plan to commemorate the Labor Day attack.

"He's supposed to execute the plan," Aglipay said in a radio interview.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will activate its 2,500-member Task Force Libra in preparation for the anniversary of the siege of Malacañang.

Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff, said Libra, an anti-coup force with an armor component, would support the Philippine National Police.

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said a senior police official had told that Malacañang was expecting "pocket demonstrations" by El Shaddai and PMAP, high-profile kidnappings and even assassinations and "GenSan-type bombings" rather than an outright overthrow.

Aquino was referring to reports that a group was trying to oust Ms Macapagal.

Intoxicated

Intelligence agents swooped down on an apartment at No. 105 JP Ramoy St. in Barangay Talipapa around 3 a.m. Thursday, three hours after an apparently intoxicated Lumbao staggered home.

"We waited for him to fall asleep before we moved in," said an intelligence official, who asked not to be named.

Lumbao did not resist arrest. Present during his arrest was his common-law wife Esperanza Ammen.

Lumbao arrived at the apartment at close to midnight on Wednesday. A car, with two other men on board, brought him home. "He was vomiting when he arrived. He was apparently drunk," the official said.

Intelligence agents started staking out Ammen's apartment in the middle of March. Until his arrest, Lumbao was never spotted there.

"He moved from place to place," Espina said when asked why Lumbao had managed to elude the authorities until yesterday.

Bodyguard

Ronnie Villarin, one of Lumbao's companions in the Novaliches safe house, said he and Lumbao moved to the apartment two weeks ago.

Villarin said he and another PMAP member acted as Lumbao's bodyguard. A woman acted as housekeeper and cook.

Villarin said he and his companion were buying something at a nearby convenience store when the policemen stormed the house.

"They were in full battle gear," he told reporters. "They attacked as if they were going to war."

He denied that Lumbao stayed with "rich supporters" of Estrada to elude arrest.

"We didn't live in mansions. For a year we moved from place to place, paying our rent with the contributions of PMAP friends and members," said Villarin.

He said he, Lumbao and another supporter commuted and walked when moving from one place to another. Asked how Lumbao avoided recognition, Villarin said Lumbao just removed his eyeglasses.

Villarin likened the wrath of the poor under the Macapagal administration to "a torch that will never be put out." ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Carlito Pablo, Martin Marfil and Juliet Javellana***

Estrada getting fair trial, say 66% in SWS poll

From page A1

his refusal to cooperate with the courts.

The nationwide survey, however, found a plurality of 45 percent who thought Estrada's dismissal of his lawyers was a mere "delaying tactic"—more than twice the number of Filipinos (19 percent) who thought otherwise. A large number of respondents, some 36 percent, said they did not know enough about the matter to give an opinion.

Pressed for a reaction, Estrada repeated his argument. "There are still many who don't fully understand legal complexities," he said.

Consistent opinion

Public opinion on the anti-graft court's evenhandedness has remained consistent over the past several months. In the September 2001 survey, 66 percent of Filipinos said the Sandiganbayan was acting fairly. The following November, a statistically similar 64 percent said the same thing. (With 1,200 respondents, the survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.)

Public perception of the Sandiganbayan's neutrality—phrased as "*walang kinikilingan*" or "doesn't favor anyone"—in the survey questionnaire has been consistent not only through time but also across the country's major regional groupings and the five socioeconomic classes.

The poll, conducted between March 4 and 23, also found that "half of the public (51 percent)" said the Macapagal administration was treating Estrada fairly. Only 16 percent thought the government was treating him too leniently, while about a third of the population thought the government approach was "too harsh."

A comparison of four nationwide surveys since July 2001, however, shows that the number of Filipinos who regard the government's handling of Estrada as "too harsh" has grown from 24 percent to 32 percent in March 2002.

Yesterday, Estrada told the INQUIRER there were two more legal issues that need to be explained to the people: the Supreme Court's decision to "handpick" the justices who would hear his cases instead of having the cases raffled off; and the recent decision by the Sandiganbayan to return to a two-hearings-per-week schedule, a proposal it rejected when he was still represented by his private lawyers.

Aside from plunder, Estrada is facing three other charges, for perjury and illegal use of alias.

TV coverage

SWS noted that the public was "most united" on the issue of allowing television coverage of the historic plunder trial. Some 72 percent—about three out of every four Filipinos—want the court to reconsider its decision banning TV coverage. The sentiment has remained consistent since at least July 2001. Again, the SWS noted that "public opinion is similar in all areas and social classes."

The polling firm also said that "four out of every five Filipinos depend most of all on television for news about the trial."

Estrada reacted to this bit of news characteristically. "*Sabik na sabik na siguro akong makita ng mga supporters ko* (Maybe my supporters are just dying to see me on TV)," he told the INQUIRER.

On one issue, the former movie star got an encouraging boost. A plurality of 45 percent favored his petition to go abroad for a few months to undergo knee surgery. Only 31 percent said they disagreed with the petition. The regional grouping with the highest number of undecideds was Mindanao, with a plurality of 37 percent.

In an unusual twist, more respondents from the ABC classes (53 percent) said they favored the petition than did respondents from D (43 percent) and E (47 percent).

Estrada's reaction: "I am not lying about my knee ailment."

The polling firm said these numbers on the issue of knee surgery abroad "should be taken literally," since the survey also found that 48 percent of Filipinos declared themselves against exile for Estrada, versus 25 percent who said they were in favor.

But the ex-President said the question should not have been asked at all, "for I will never allow myself to be exiled, despite the fact that this administration had twice offered me that (option)." ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

'Ama ng Bayan' airing on TV stopped by gov't

From page A1

"Are they (Macapagal administration) afraid of the truth? We are willing to stand by everything we said (in the video)," said lawyer Jesus Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

"If this is an exercise of prior restraint, there must be a clear and present danger (as basis). Do they see a clear and present danger on May 1?" Remulla said.

Estrada supporters are preparing to observe the first anniversary of the failed mob assault on Malacañang on Labor Day, the highpoint of what they describe as Edsa III. Edsa II refers to the demonstrations in January 2001 that led to the ouster of Estrada.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable denied that Malacañang had a hand in stopping the showing of the documentary, which has been doing the rounds of urban poor communities since December.

No censorship

"We are not engaged in censorship. These are just regulatory actions," Afable said at his regular press briefing.

Afable said the MTRCB and VRB were merely exercising their "legal prerogatives" and were not following any orders from the Palace.

Sources said a Cabinet member and a relative of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo personally asked the management of Net 25 to defer the showing of the film until after May 1.

Rated PG

But the MTRCB approved on April 11 the documentary's public exhibition on Net 25 and ABC 5 with a parental guidance rating.

The permit issued by the MTRCB indicated that ABC 5 was also granted approval to air "Ama ng Bayan" on April 18 (the eve of Estrada's 65th birthday) and on the 25th and 30th.

The permit classified "Ama ng Masa" as a "documentary epic," prepared for the birthday of Estrada, highlighting successful government programs as the work of the ex-President."

In giving it a "PG" rating, the MTRCB said parents must be able to "guide their children" in making the distinction "between truth and fiction."

On April 24 the VRB stepped in. In a letter to MTRCB Chair Alejandro Roces, Lualhati Buenafe, VRB chair and chief executive officer, said R&R Productions, the film's distributor, "has not registered with the VRB and has not been issued a special commercial permit."

The requirements are needed before R&R Productions, owned by a certain Darwin Malapote, can publicly exhibit the film.

Buenafe reminded Roces that the VRB, MTRCB and National Telecommunication Commission had an existing memorandum of agreement dating back to 1997, which provides that all programs and work for broadcast "shall be subject to review and classification by the MTRCB and the VRB."

Special permit

The agreement also requires that only videograms issued "special commercial permits by the VRB and permit to exhibit by the MTRCB" can be aired by TV stations.

Buenafe wrote Roces after reading a report in the INQUIRER on Wednesday that the MTRCB had issued permits for the showing of "Ama ng Masa." The report was based on a media advisory from Estrada's party issued the day before.

Roces then wrote Net 25 and ABC-5 requesting them "to hold in abeyance the showing of the film . . . until the producer shall have registered with and issued license by the VRB."

"Hoping that you will heed our advice," Roces said in closing.

The documentary was supposed to be aired at 9 last night over Net 25 and its cable stations 62 (Sky, Sun and Home) and 41 (Destiny), and replayed on April 30, the eve of the first anniversary of Edsa III.

The documentary, based on "Ama ng Masa" videodiscs distributed to journalists last December, seeks to prove that Ms Macapagal was sworn in only as "acting President" by Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

The Estrada camp has claimed that it has released at least 50,000 "Ama ng Masa" films in VCD and VHS formats since last year. The documentary has broadcaster Jay Sonza as narrator-commentator.

It retraces Estrada's downfall starting with the exposé of then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada was receiving millions of pesos from jueteng operators.

The video says Singson worked for Estrada's ouster and found allies in the Church and the elite upon sensing that his alleged gambling empire in Ilocos Sur would have to give way to Bingo 2-Ball, a legalized numbers game approved by Estrada.

The video had Alice Reyes, former chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., saying that Singson was "not interested" in Bingo 2-Ball.

Reyes quoted Singson as saying "*huwag nyong pakialaman ang* Ilocos Sur (keep off Ilocos Sur)" when Pagcor was holding a dry run for the new game.

Another highlight included Sonza's interview with Estrada about the "second envelope." The decision of the Senate not to open it during Estrada's impeachment trial triggered the Edsa II uprising.

Jose Velarde account

When opened at the Senate shortly after his ouster, Estrada said, the envelope yielded nothing linking him to the controversial "Jose Velarde" account, which reportedly contained billions of pesos. But this finding was not given prominence in the media, he said.

Estrada focused on two documents retrieved from the envelope:

- An Aug. 25, 1999 letter by his friend Jaime Dichaves to then Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Romualdo Dy Tang, asking the latter to open savings and current accounts at the bank's branch in Juan Luna, Binondo.

The two accounts would be "for Jose Velarde, care of the undersigned (Dichaves)," Estrada said, reading from a copy of the letter.

"All banking transactions of Jose Velarde shall be coursed through the undersigned. Very truly yours, Jaime Dichaves," he added.

- An affidavit executed by Tang on Jan. 12, 2001 at the height of the impeachment trial confirming that Dichaves made such request to him in August 1999.

Turning to Sonza, Estrada then said that these documents would prove that the bank accounts were owned by Dichaves.

But in late February 2002, about two months after the release of "Ama ng Masa," Estrada admitted in a TV interview that he signed as "Jose Velarde" on bank documents facilitating a P500-million loan to another businessman pal, William Gatchalian.

Estrada has since claimed that he merely did so as a "guarantor" of the loan and that Dichaves was the owner of the account from which the P500 million was drawn.

Diplomat sports pigtail

From page A1

the Department of Foreign Affairs. And at 75, he is older by three years than his new boss, Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

He is certainly not the "usual diplomat" but the highly respected businessman-philanthropist Sixto Roxas comes to his job with unusually solid credentials. He's an alumnus of the Ateneo de Manila University, summa cum laude and of Fordham University for his M.A. in Economics.

When he assumed his post on Tuesday, he promised to introduce "unfamiliar programs."

He will not be any less informal as a diplomat. He has long ceased to be formal, he said, and maintains an easy lifestyle at 75. "I never get bored at 75," he said.

He won't turn formal even if faced with his foreign counterparts during negotiations, he said.

What about cutting his hair at the very least? It has grown to 6 inches. "No way. I hate hair cuts. I haven't had my hair cut for the past eight years," Roxas said.

The DFA officials had a sampling of Roxas' informal and unconventional lifestyle.

After he was welcomed by Guingona during a simple ceremony at the DFA auditorium, Roxas took the podium and said: "Mr. Vice President, fellow undersecretaries and all of you whose ranks I don't know. I am not very good at ceremonies. I cease to become a formal person. As you know, I never cut my hair."

Same mistakes

"I am here because I want to be useful. So, look upon me as an additional resource. I want to be a force and provide you with new perspectives and share with you my experiences," Roxas said.

Roxas, founder of the Bancom Group of Companies, said the Philippine economy has never improved because the economists have been repeating the same mistakes.

"We oust and install new leadership but maintain exactly the same economic programs. As a result, we've got massive escalation of those leaving the country to find better opportunities abroad," he said. "And that's 2,700 of them every day leaving for abroad."

For this reason, Roxas said, he would implement "unfamiliar programs" that would help create jobs in the countryside.

"We keep repeating our errors so if it is too familiar, discard it," he advised.

Asset

Guingona said Roxas, a native of Los Baños, Laguna, would be an asset at the DFA.

"Undersecretary Roxas has written several dozens of publications on various topics, a veritable treasure trove of knowledge and invaluable insights amassed over several decades of experience, which he now brings to this department," Guingona said.

Roxas is a well-known economist starting out as assistant economist at the central bank of the Philippines, then manager of the Philippine National Bank and later, chief economist of the Department of Economic Research and Statistics.

He also headed Amex Bank Ltd. in London in the late 1970s.

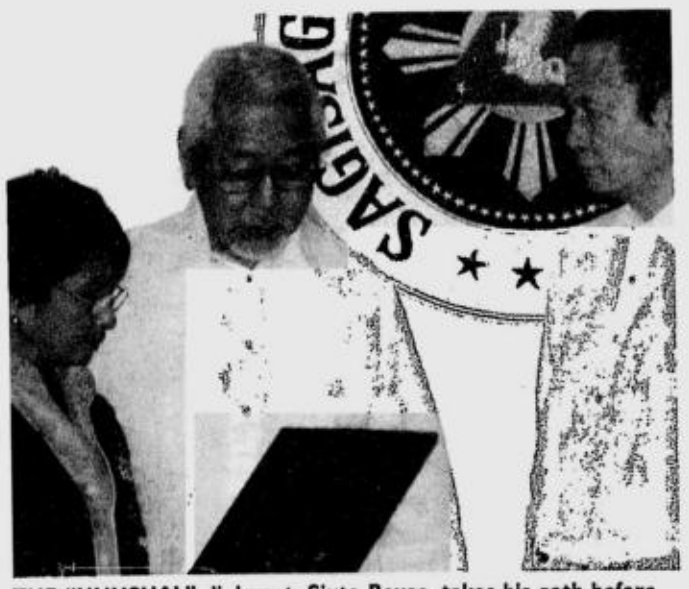
He was a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award for economics in 1960.

Roxas also founded environmental and nongovernment organizations. He has authored books on economics.

Guingona said Roxas' expertise would be used in negotiating with world economic agencies such as the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Roxas vowed to translate his expertise into the creation of jobs for Filipinos.

Asked if he could have been more effective if he had joined the Department of Finance or Department of Trade and Industry, Roxas said: "Only the DFA offered me a job."



THE "UNUSUAL" diplomat, Sixto Roxas, takes his oath before the President, and Vice President and Foreign Secretary Guingona at the Hiyas ng Bulacan convention center in Malolos, Bulacan. EDWIN BACASMAS

Palace admits news leak

From page A1

erals whom Copa and Freedom Force movers allegedly tried to recruit.

"You did a service to the nation. It (leak) achieved its purpose," the official said of the INQUIRER.

"The President owes you lunch or dinner," the official laughed.

The same official acknowledged that Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza called up Malacañang supposedly to tell on the alleged plotters immediately after he and Copa leaders met with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin at the prelate's residence on April 15.

Copa leaders allegedly tried to enlist the cardinal's support for its proposed "collective leadership" in government, a concept generally interpreted as a junta.

The cardinal thumbed down the suggestion in a letter to Benigno.

Pontius Pilate

The Palace official, however, noted that the Palace believes Fianza is himself a participant and while he called up Malacañang after the meeting, he merely "did a Pontius Pilate."

"He (Fianza) was in it. He already knew that we already knew," the official said.

"We knew about Freedom Force two weeks back and this was even before they went to see the cardinal," the official said.

The official said that Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo went to see Cardinal Sin immediately after the latter wrote Benigno about his opposition to the planned junta.

"They lied," the official quoted the Cardinal as having told Romulo of Benigno's claim, which he made in his column in the Philippine Star, that the prelate was supportive of their idea of a "collective leadership."

The same official said that as a result of the INQUIRER's disclosure of the alleged plan, Copa leaders "have beaten a hasty retreat."

Save face

"They will still launch Freedom Force in June as they have originally planned but just to save face," he said. "But they know that they are already vanquished."

The official said Malacañang decided to leak the alleged plan because "*sobra na kasi sila* (they've gone too far already").

Asked if there were no other options considered aside from the news leak, the official said that the Palace had tried to talk to some of the alleged players like Saycon. But "they all denied it every time so we had no choice except to expose them."

The same official noted that based on informal surveys made by the Palace, "the people believed the INQUIRER story."

Error

While Limcaoco conceded the INQUIRER story was "correct," he pointed out too during the dzRH interview that it erred in attributing to Bishop Socrates Villegas, the cardinal's spokesperson, the statement that Copa and Benigno had proposed a junta to replace the President.

"But by and large, *ay totoo naman ang istorya* (the story was correct)," he said.

Asked by dzRH if the President ordered him to leak the story to the media, he replied: "No. The request came from the cardinal's office."

He said Sin's staff gave him a copy of the cardinal's letter to Benigno because they wanted him to show it to the President as well as give it to other media outlets.

He said he only faxed the cardinal's letter to the INQUIRER because he was rushing to Malacañang.

First, a denial

A day after the INQUIRER ran the story on Tuesday, Limcauco denied having said that Copa and Benigno were allegedly planning a junta.

As he was not in the meeting between Sin and Benigno's group, he said the formation of a junta was one way to interpret their proposal for "collective leadership."

Benigno, Saycon and Cojuangco immediately lashed out at Limcaoco for allegedly putting words into their mouths.

Limcaoco said the burden of explaining themselves lies with Benigno's group.

Bewildering

"It's bewildering how a meeting can have two very different interpretations," he told dzRH.

"Teddy Benigno, whom I respect, thinks they got the cardinal's blessing. But the cardinal in his letter said, hold it, I did not bless the Freedom Force and the concept of collective leadership.

"The people are intelligent. They know what is right and wrong and they know whom they should believe and side with," Limcauco added.

But he disagreed that Benigno and his group should be charged with rebellion as some members of Congress have proposed.

He said democracy allows everyone to speak their mind as long as they don't break the law.

"I think there is no basis to file charges against those talking about (collective leadership)," he told dzRH.

Later, the INQUIRER later tried to interview Limcaoco but was turned down.

He said it was "best to let the story die since there is too much ado over this."

Benigno's idea

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said he was satisfied with Saycon's denial that they wanted to overthrow the President.

He said he met Tuesday with Saycon who claimed he was only invited by Benigno to the meeting with the cardinal on April 15.

Golez said Saycon told him that Freedom Force was just Benigno's idea, and that they do not agree with the columnist's thinking that there will soon be a social upheaval.

"All's well that ends well. The President is very satisfied with (Copa's) public announcement that she has their full support," Golez said.

Copa sought backing . . .

From page A1

view that he invited Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon and Freedom Force advocates to come out in the open and form a "legitimate" opposition party.

He was reacting to Saycon's claim that he had invited Freedom Force to link up with the PCA, a fierce critic of the President.

Beltran, chair of the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said Copa and PCA members approached him and other labor leaders to woo their support for a junta at the height of the campaign to oust Joseph Estrada.

"They talked with us before, and there were efforts to persuade us to join them even before the impeachment of Estrada," Beltran said in an interview at the University of the Philippines in Manila.

He declined to name names, but said he was referring to "the same groups that constitute Freedom Force, although (they had) different names and they were scattered then."

"It was only now that they came together," he noted.

Beltran assailed Freedom Force, saying: "We denounce it as a force against the workers. It will only pave the way for militarization. We have proven it before.

"We will not support the call to oust the President now. We have yet to test the sentiments of the workers before we issue a call to action."

Chess game

Beltran said the people behind the reported planned junta were playing politics with "their right foot in the government side and their left foot in the opposition."

"It's like a chess game," he said. "They're using placing as a strategy. Their former alliance with Edsa II forces was part of their tactical purposes."

Alliance with BMP

According to Beltran, the people pushing for a junta also approached the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), which, he said, is already aligned with Freedom Force.

The BMP called for the resignation of all government officials, including then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, during People Power II in January 2001.

Yesterday, however, BMP president Victor Briz denied that his group was supporting the formation of a junta or that it was connected in any way with Freedom Force.

"That's impossible," Briz said in a phone interview. "We cannot have any relations with Freedom Force unless they come to us, know life in the streets and espouse the concerns of our workers."

He added: "We do not support a change in leadership. We want a change in the system."

Labor groups like the KMU and BMP provided many of the warm bodies during People Power II, which eventually led to Estrada's ouster.

The militants' mass base boosted the anti-Estrada campaign that business and moderate groups also supported. It was the militants who first sounded the call to remove Estrada from power, after he was charged with plunder, bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and illegal use of alias and perjury.

Text messages

Saycon yesterday said he received a text message from Enriquez at 10:43 a.m. Tuesday, the day the INQUIRER reported Freedom Force's call for "collective leadership."

He said the message read: "Suggest we join force."

At 10:45 p.m. on the same day, Saycon said, he got another message from Enriquez suggesting that their groups join the People's Patriotic Movement of Dr. Emmanuel Yap.

Enriquez admitted that he had sent the messages, but insisted he only wanted Freedom Force to initiate a "legitimate political opposition."

"I said, 'Why don't you unite with the opposition so everything will be clear?'" he told the INQUIRER.

He also clarified that he was not advocating the formation of a junta.

Saycon said he had snubbed Enriquez's invitation for fear that it might further put the Copa and Freedom Force in a bad light.

"When circumstances are unclear, it's very dangerous to jump to conclusions," he said. "That's why I didn't respond to the message."

Saycon said he did not want the public and the President to think that the Copa and Freedom Force were toeing the line of the PCA, which has been at loggerheads with his group.

"Just imagine. If we join forces with the PCA, it would only fuel allegations that we are indeed plotting to oust the President," he said.

Saycon said the controversy about the true intention of Freedom Force might be the handiwork of people plotting a "divide and rule" strategy to "weaken" the administration.

"It has only divided the public and lessened support for the President," he said.

He expressed anxiety that forces loyal to Estrada might take advantage of the situation in time for the first anniversary of the Labor Day siege of Malacañang.

"Groups loyal to Estrada are delighted now," he said in Filipino. "They know that the ones supporting the President are those now being put on the spot."

'Paranoia'

Some senators sought to justify the existence of Freedom Force. But Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said at least three public officials implicated in the alleged junta plot should quit their posts.

She named them as Saycon, a board director of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.; Cesar Sarino, supposedly an adviser of the President; and Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza, director for human resources and doctrine development of the Philippine National Police.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III laughed off what he described as the "paranoid" reaction of Malacañang to the group, and said there was a need for such a third force to keep an eye on those in power as well as those wanting to return to power.

"Instead of condemning them, we must be thankful that there are still men and women who have not lost hope, who continue to dare dream of a kinder society for millions of impoverished Filipinos," Osmeña said, adding:

"Let us nurture these individuals and encourage them in pursuing their vision to bring about a better world for all Filipinos."

Osmeña pointed out that the right of citizens to assemble and organize was one of the most important pillars of a free society.

Thus, he said, Malacañang should not fear such a group, unless "it has many things to hide."

'Thinking club'

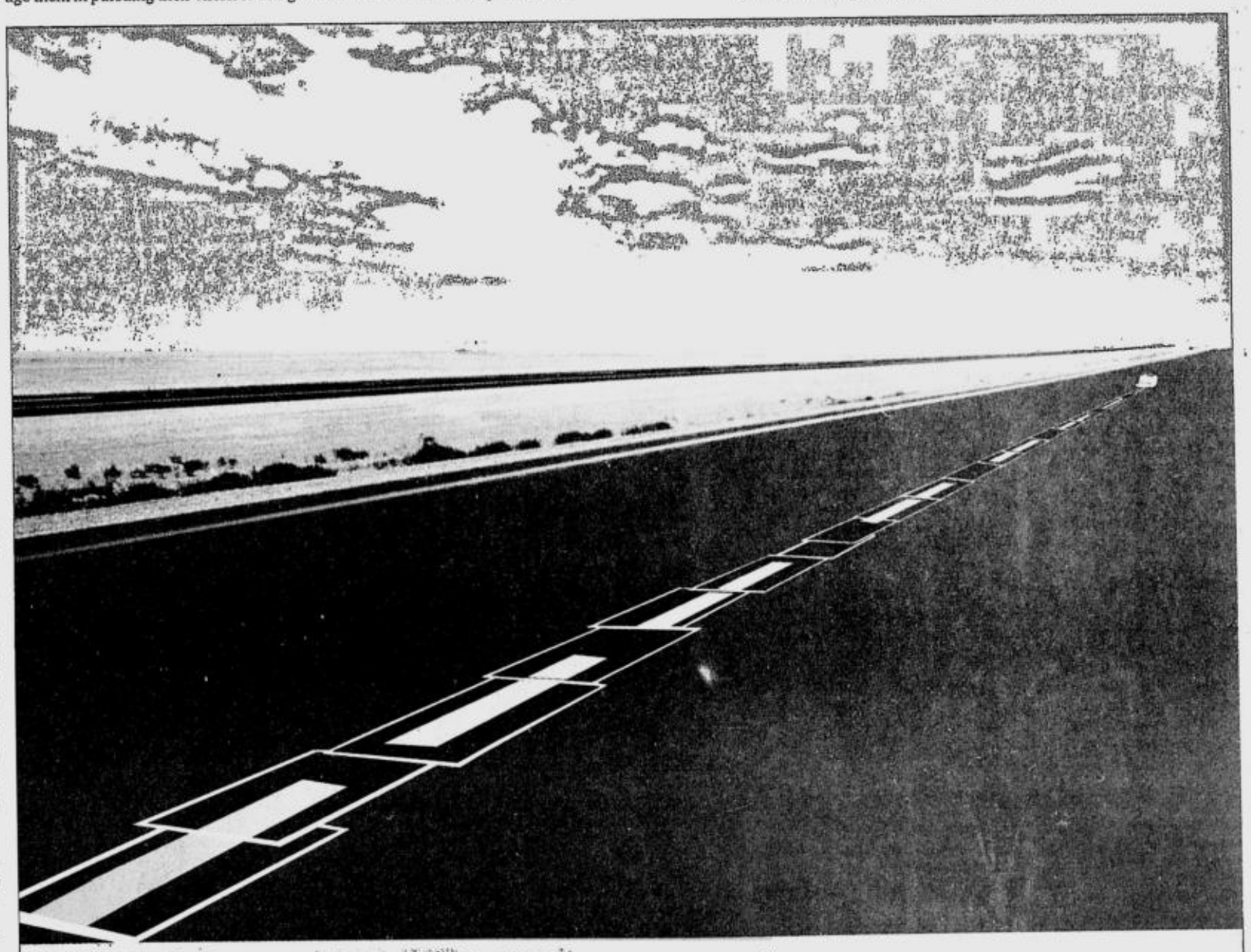
Sen. Ralph Recto described Freedom Force as a "thinking club" that must be spared from both persecution and criminal prosecution.

Recto said it would be a waste of taxpayers' money if government agencies, including Congress, investigated the group's advocacy and activities.

"They have done nothing illegal," he said. "Engaging in political analysis or rumor is not a crime in this part of the world. Even daydreaming is protected by the Constitution."

To back his position that there is no need for a formal inquiry, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Freedom Force "appears to be a result of democratic rights and even highlights civil vigilance."

"Assuming there is evidence that a certain group is planning a junta, then file a case in court," Pangilinan said. "Let us not use Congress as an instrument to perpetuate political speculations." ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno***



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Patafa Open lures over 1,000 entries

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MORE than 1,000 foreign and local athletes have confirmed their participation in the Milo national open and invitational track and field championships on May 1-4 at the Rizal track oval.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday said the size of the field is expected to grow in the three-day competition dubbed the Gov. Jose Sering Cup, which will serve — among other things—as a gauge of the national athletes' strength for the Busan Asian Games.

There are already 106 athletes who are committed to see action. They came from Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brunei, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Sabah.

Of the foreign competitors, Go said Sri Lanka is expected to give the Nationals a tough fight, consid-

GO

ering that the Sri Lankans are preparing for the hosting of the 2002 Asian Amateur Athletics Association championships in August.

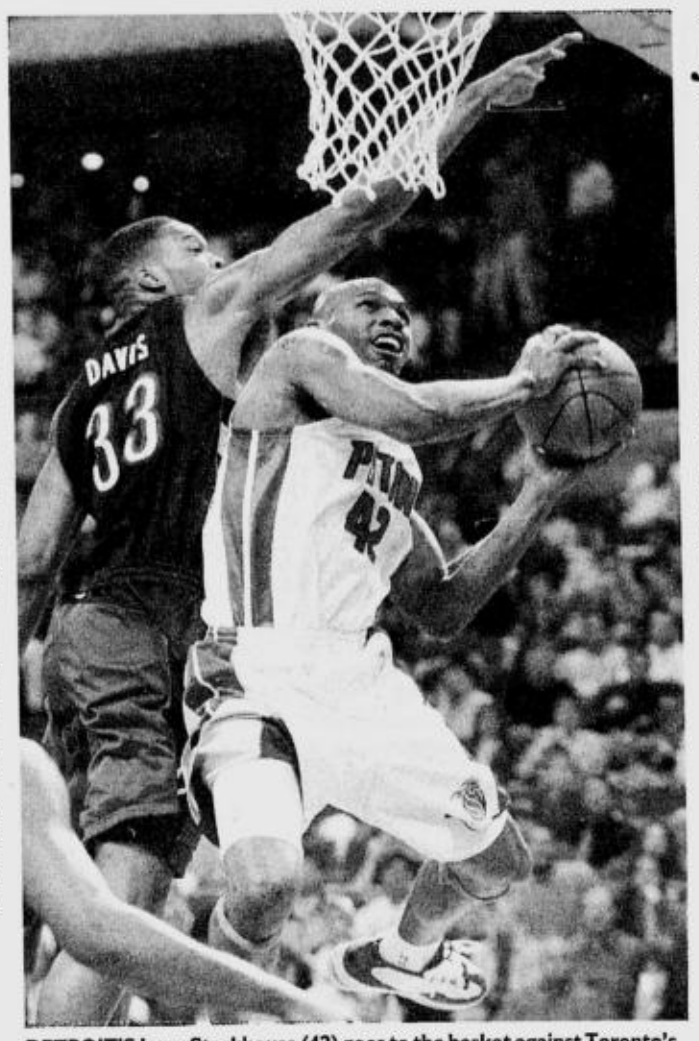
Go said he will field the entire national team composed of 27 members led by Southeast Asian Games double-gold medalist Eduardo Buenavista.

There will be 61 local teams with 918 athletes seeing action in the event which also stakes automatic slots in the third leg of the 4As Grand Prix to be held in Manila on May 26.

The tournament will also serve as venue for local and foreign sports officials to pay tribute to Sering, who was the founding president of the 4As aside from heading the Patafa and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"The field might still swell depending on the Middle Eastern countries and former Soviet republics, who appeared discouraged when some of their athletes were barred from entering the country," said Go.

Just the same, Go said that if the banned athletes failed to make it to the Gov. Sering Cup, he will make sure that they will see action in the Grand Prix, which will showcase the best athletes in Asia.



DETROIT'S Jerry Stackhouse (42) goes to the basket against Toronto's Antonio Davis during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals Wednesday. Detroit won, 96-91. AP

Johnson leads list to Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts—Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who led the Los Angeles Lakers to five NBA championships, was among 14 players and coaches and one team nominated Wednesday for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Johnson, vice president of the Lakers, was nominated in his first year of eligibility. There are so few doubts about the outcome of the vote that, in a break with tradition, the Hall of Fame is announcing its inductees in June in Los Angeles, where Johnson spent his entire 13-year pro career.

In his rookie season with the Lakers, Johnson seized control of Game 6 of the 1980 NBA Finals against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Starting at center for the injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and playing all five positions during the game, Johnson had 42 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists, leading the Lakers to the first of five NBA titles during the decade. *AP*

Southern Tagalog overall champ

CEBU City—Southern Tagalog put on the finishing touches to its claim of the overall championship, winning two more golds on a day two runners from NCR-South got disqualified due to ineligibility at the close of the national Prisaa meet at the Abellana Sports Complex here.

Southern Tagalog harvested a total medal of 14 golds, 12 of them from men division, 10 silvers and five bronzes. The last two golds came from Rodella Mejillano in women triple jump (11.54) and Jerry Baldon in men javelin throw (48.77 meters).

Mercedita Manipol and Amelia Francisco, both students of UE and coached by Elma Muros-Posadas, got disqualified for being members of the national training pool.

Manipol won three individual events in smashing performance and anchored NCR-South along with Francisco and two other runners to the gold in the 4x800-meter relay.

The disqualification of Manipol and Francisco relegated NCR-South to the fourth with 7-7-4 behind NCR-North 14-8-11) and Ilocos Region (8-5-13). Most of the golds of NCR-South came from women division.

Host Central Visayas placed fifth at 4-4-2, followed by Region IX 0-8-6. Three golds won by the host region came from Julius Nierras in 100-m 200-m, and long jump. The Cebuanos managed to win only one gold courtesy of Hydelisa Salinas in women 3,000-m walk in 17:57.2.

NCR-North topped the women division with 13-6-6, sharing honor with Southern Tagalog, which ruled the men's bracket with 12-4-3.

Pistons rip Raptors for 2-0 series lead

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan —Jerry Stackhouse scored a playoff career-high 31 points as the Detroit Pistons became the first team to take a 2-0 lead in the NBA playoffs with a 96-91 victory over Toronto on Wednesday night.

Game 3 of the best-of-five series is Saturday in Toronto.

Jon Barr added 13 points, Cliff Robinson and Corliss Williamson scored 10 each, and Ben Wallace had 15 rebounds and seven points. Chris Childs had 22 points and 14 assists for Toronto, and Antonio Davis added 21 points.

Mavs 122, Wolves 110

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki, Michael Finley and Steve Nash provided an exciting display as they ran and shot Dallas past Minnesota for a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Nowitzki had 31 points and 15 rebounds, Finley had 28 points and eight rebounds, and Nash contributed 17 points and 10 assists.

The league's highest-scoring team also got a boost from its two late-season additions as Nick Van Exel scored 17 points and Raef LaFrentz had 14 points and 12 rebounds. *AP*

Gasol cops rookie plum

MEMPHIS, Tennessee — Memphis forward Pau Gasol won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award on Wednesday as a near unanimous pick.

Gasol, a 21-year-old native of Spain, is the first European to win top rookie honors. He received 117 of a possible 126 votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

"I still feel a little thing moving around in my stomach. I am so happy," the former FC Barcelona star said.

Missing the small goatee he wore through most of the season, Gasol sat quietly on stage trying to hold back a nearly constant smile as others lauded him.

His parents and two younger brothers sat beaming on a front row a few meters (feet) away. The family accompanied Gasol to the United States and lived with him in Memphis throughout the season. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

All-amateur scrabble set May 5

THE FIRST National All-Amateur Scrabble Championship will be held on May 5 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City. Players are required to attend a half-day evaluation tournament on their chosen date from April 27 to May 4. The evaluation tournament includes an orientation on World Scrabble rules and procedures and 3-match plays. The finals on May 5 will determine the champion to be awarded a grand trophy and P10,000. The event is organized by the National Amateur Scrabble Association of the Philippines (Nascap) and hosted by Gamers Headquarters in cooperation with the Mabuhay Education Center. For details, call 578-8612 (7 to 11 a.m.) or email nascap@hotmail.com or text your name, address and chosen date for evaluation tournament to 0917-6657332 and 0919-2592702.

70 fights scheduled at Pasay cockpit

VETERAN cockers Saday Siochi of Malabon (CMS Tiger Ninja) and Tony Lasala of Cagayan Valley (Rey San Luis), crowned last week as PCCA Cocker of the Year 2002, lead the favorites in today's special 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. More than 70 fights are in store for aficionados starting at 7 p.m., according to host Cesar Sto. Domingo. Entry fee is P10,000 and guaranteed cash prize is P300,000. Meanwhile, submission of weights to the PCC 5-cock derby next week, May 3, is strictly one day before the event. Entries will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Derby host is Benjie Lim, assisted by pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. For inquiries, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Bata victory in Japan shown today

POOL fans in the country will have a chance to see how "The Magician" Efren "Bata" Reyes won the biggest tournament in the history of the sport in the finals of the Tokyo 9-Ball Championship at 5 p.m. today (Friday, April 26) over Viva Television IBC 13. Reyes, who met young Dutchman Niels Feijen in a classic race to 15 for the top prize of $160,000, will provide fans with his own insights into the match. Reyes will be a studio guest along with commentators Mon Liboro and Rollie Vicente. The Tokyo 9-Ball Championship is presented by Pop Cola and Motolite, with support from McDonald's, Café Puro, Thunderbird and Barcelona Brandy.

Agassi advances to quarterfinals

AGASSI

HOUSTON —Second-seeded American Andre Agassi advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships on Wednesday after defeating South Korea's Lee Hyung-taik 6-4, 7-5. Top-seeded German Tommy Haas was eliminated in a night match, falling 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) to Wayne Arthurs of Australia. *AP*

Zoleta sisters enter tennis semis

ZOLETA sisters Bien and Bambi of Mary Hill College played true to form yesterday to earn semifinal slots in the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Bien defeated Katrina Pamintuan of Poveda, 6-4, 6-3, to advance against Catherine Flores, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Kristel Samala in the girls' 18-under division. Bien had earlier downed Melissa Orteza, 6-1, 6-0, to forge a 16-under semifinal duel with Flores, who scored a hard-earned 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-4 win over Pamintuan. Bambi beat Sarah Chan, 6-2, 6-2, to advance in the 14-under semifinals against Orteza.

Lewis-Tyson tickets selling briskly

MEMPHIS, Tennessee — All but a handful of the first 1,875 tickets put on sale for the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson title fight were snapped up quickly. About 50 tickets remained for sale Wednesday. They can be purchased at the Memphis Pyramid arena and through phone and Internet sales with Ticketmaster. Tickets for the June 8 fight go for up to $2,400 for the best seats to $500 and $250 in the arena's most remote reaches. *AP*

Mike slapped $66M suit

NEW YORK— Golden Gloves boxer Mitchell Rose has filed a $66 million suit against Mike Tyson, claiming the former heavyweight champion permanently damaged his spine during a fight at a Brooklyn club last year.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Brooklyn Supreme Court, alleges Tyson physically hurt Rose during an encounter at the Sugar Hill Club on Dec. 16.

Rose also seeks damages for his personal property, including a mink coat that Tyson "ripped with his bare hands" and punitive damages of about $50 million, said Sanford Rubenstein, Rose's lawyer.

Calls to Tyson's manager and spokesman were not immediately returned. Tyson is scheduled to fight Lennox Lewis for the heavyweight championship in Memphis, Tennessee, on June 8. *AP*

Chess draw slated today

ALL participants, including the seeded players, in the championship round of the National Chess championship, are required to attend the drawing of lots at 3 p.m. today at the penthouse (17th floor) of the all Asia-Capital Center in Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Executive Director and Chief Arbiter Gene Poliarco said the drawing of lots will be held to determine the pairings and the color assignments of the participants in the 15-round (for men) and 13 rounds (for women) in the round-robin tournament.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Take Chances 2. Never Quit 3. Snowy Sea 4. Sweet Inspiration

Race 2—1. Marginal Note 2. Waving Oscar 3. Sun Chief

Race 3—1. Shower of Stars 2. Gutmoore 3. Dynamite Miss 4. Mrs. Big

Race 4—1. Valiant Queen 2. Sky Wind 3. Rock's Dragon

Race 5—1. Jerold's Dream 2. Stradivarius 3. Danielle's Angel 4. Flying Indy

Race 6—1. Schwarzenegger 2. American Music 3. Might and Power 4. Halo Effect 5. Brazen Truth 6. Super Shuttle

Race 7—1. Ayra's Pet 2. Bohemyo 3. Southern Skies 4. Feast of Diamond 5. Kiss 'Em Goodbye

Race 8—1. Manila Mauler 2. Seiko Shita 3. Key to Heaven 4. Wings of Gold

Race 9—1. Gigi's Gold 2. Big Kahuna 3. Gold Honors 4. Ray Moon 5. Noah's Arc 6. Native Talent/Perfect Gift

Kutitap targets solo lead in PBL

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
1:45 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs RP Youth
4 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Shark
6 p.m.—Kutitap vs Montaña Jewels

By Dennis U. Eroa

SPARKLING Kutitap aims to break free from co-leader Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation as it tackles skidding Montaña today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6 p.m. Kutitap-Montaña clash is the main game of a three-game bill. Ana Freezers (3-3) should have no trouble beating RP Youth (0-3) in the opener at 1:45 p.m., while Shark Energy Drink collides with Blu Sun Power in the second game at 4 p.m.

"I'm confident that the team can keep its winning ways," said Kutitap manager Bernard Yang. "It's too early to predict our title chances, but everything is going right for our squad."

The Sparklers sport a 4-1 card, same record of the Blue Eagles. Playing well for Kutitap are Cyrus Baguio, Allan Salangsang, Ryan Dy and Francis Mercado.

Fiery Aries Dimaunahan, Lou Gatumbato, Jacques Gottenbos, Abby Santos, Arnold Calo and Marlon Legaspi will banner Blu's bid to score its third win this conference.

Shark, which snapped a four-game losing streak by downing Ana last Wednesday, will pin its hopes on Ismael Junio, Mike Bravo, Warren Ybañez, CJ Cole and Gerald Ortega.

Rudy Mendoza's Freezer Kings will use their match against the Nationals as a way to sharpen their game. Ana lost by 21 points against Shark.

Before that loss, Ana carried a three-game winning streak, including victories over Kutitap and Ateneo, respectively.

RP-Spring battles Korea in ABC opener

THE PHILIPPINES-Spring Cooking Oil team goes up against Korea as it opens its campaign in the 10-team ABC Champions' Cup basketball tournament on Sunday, April 28 in Kuala Lumpur.

"It's a tough assignment, but the boys are ready and determined," said RP-Spring delegation head and coach Tito Palma yesterday shortly before his team left for KL on board a Malaysian Airlines plane.

High-leaping Geremy Robinson and seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks banner RP-Spring, co-owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Herbert de Jesus and supported by Unimex Intertrade, Alfa Laval Phils., ER Enterprises, Liwayway Marketing (Oishi) and D & L Industries.

The other players are Macario Torres, Joel Co, Alland de Castro, Mario Reyes, Michael Buendia, Efren Garcia, Erwin Luna, Jasper Javier and Ricky Ricafuente. Bert Polido is the team manager while Ricky Magallanes is assistant coach.

Spring, which earned the right to represent the country by winning the national title at the expense of Korea, will also meet Hong Kong on April 30, Lebanon on May 1 and Saudi Arabia on May 2 in the other Group A matches.

The other teams, all in Group B, are Qatar, Syria, Malaysia, Indiana and Bahrain.

This is the first time since 1999 that a Philippine team will see action in the ABC Champions Cup. Beeper 150 and Pasig Pirates played in 1998 and 1999, respectively, both finishing eighth.

Boxer hurt in Elorde card

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BOXING is a cruel sport because the aim is to maim, to attack the opponent's head and body with the lethal weapon of a padded fist. Thus, boxing is not acceptable to some members of civilized society who want it permanently banned. While boxing has adopted many safety measures and avoided injuries and deaths for a long time, it is still a high-risk sport where tragedy is forever waiting.

Only recently, boxer Maruel Zayas was rushed to a hospital in Tarlac after he lost to Alex Escaner by a TKO in the ninth round of a 10-round bout held last April 20 at the Paniqui Convention Center promoted by Johnny Elorde.

Oddly, the incident did not receive much media attention, leading many to ask: What happened to the poor boxer? Is Zayas still alive and well? **(Zayas died yesterday. Story on page A24)** Was there a mismatch in the card? Were the rules followed? Certainly, a review of the fight tape by the sport's ruling body, the Games and Amusements Board chaired by Eduardo Villanueva, could help unravel the circumstances surrounding the Zayas incident. The public has a right to know.

In the GAB report, both Escaner and Zayas fought gamely from the opening bell until the ninth round. In the fateful ninth, Zayas was more aggressive, with Escaner only counter punching. However, Escaner took control, eventually connecting with a barrage of blows to the head of Zayas who was floored as a result. Referee Robert Maasil Jr. then gave Zayas the mandatory eight-count. Zayas stood up before the count of 8 and went to his corner wobbly, leading the referee to wave his hand and declare Escaner winner by TKO (technical knockout). After the verdict was announced, ring physician Dr. Alampay went atop the ring to examine the losing boxer. When he examined and talked to Zayas for a couple of minutes he noticed that the boxer looked dazed so he decided to accompany the hapless boxer to the hospital for medication and treatment. What happened to Zayas and the others who suffered head injuries in a bout underscore once more the hazards of boxing as a sport.

Earlier this month, another Filipino boxer, Sonny Boco, suffered a severe brain injury after being knocked out during a bout with a Thai fighter in Thailand. Appearing in only his seventh fight as a pro—and his first on foreign soil—Boco, a 22-year-old boxer from Cebu, collapsed in the fifth round of a 12-rounder. He had not fought in a 12-round bout and figured in a 10-rounder but once in a short-lived career that saw him winning five and drawing once in a six previous fights. Boco was cleared by the GAB for his first fight abroad. For this fight, Boco reportedly earned $1,200, not much considering the risk to his life and limb.

QUE gets the ball out from the trap on the eighth hole during the third round of the Manila Am. ROMY HOMILLADA

Que fires 67, storms ahead in Manila Am

By Jong Arcano

WHEN Angelo Que finds his rhythm, it means big trouble for his challengers.

Que used a frontnine explosion to match the course record of five-under-par 67 yesterday and wrest firm control of the inaugural Manila Amateur golf championship at Wack Wack's west course.

The 23-year-old Que already got his share of the course mark previously set by pro Danny Zarate by the 10th hole but the afternoon gusts and a slight downpour prevented him from going all the way.

His version of a 67 boosted him in front by four strokes over Dizon who was going neck-and-neck with him until a hail of three bogeys down the last four holes opened the way for Que's late breakaway.

Jerome Delariarte, who had held the lead the first two rounds, likewise fell victim to the tough playing conditions as he ballooned to a four-over 76 and dropped to solo third at 214 in the tourney organized by golf store chain PacSports in cooperation with Wack Wack.

"I can't consider it a comfortable lead. It's still anybody's game especially since this is the home course of Marlon (Dizon)," said Que, who is preparing for his second defense of the national match play crown next month.

Que went on a birdie binge starting from the second. He reached the green with his second shot on the fourth and gunned down two more on the sixth and seventh before giving up a stroke on the eighth after hitting his tee-shot to the bunker.

He got the stroke back with another birdie on the ninth before making the course record-tying birdie on the 10th from eight feet.

Nobody made a significant charge to break the expected three-cornered fight in the final round today.

Cookie LaO broke par again, this time with a 70 but could only jump to fourth, still 11 strokes behind at 219. Juvic Pagunsan improved to a 73 for solo fifth at 222 and Jun Jun Plana leveled par 72 for 223.

Andy Vasquez was the early leader in the seniors division with a 75, leading former national champ Caloy Coscolluela by three strokes.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN MEET

RP fencers snare 4 golds in Malaysia

FILIPINO fencers boosted their drive for the overall crown of the Southeast Asian Fencing Federation Championships after sweeping the first four gold medals staked Monday and Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur.

Avelino "Bino" Victorino produced the gold medal that shone brightest when he upstaged reigning SEA Games epee champion Tria Perdia of Indonesia, 15-3, in men's epee of the tournament staged at the Negara Stadium in the Malaysian capital.

Other gold medal winners for the Philippine team that is bound to regain the overall championship it won in 2000 with a 7-of-10 gold medal performance were Lorrie Bauzon in women's epee, Lenny Reyes in women's foil and Emerson Segui in men's foil.

The federation has upped the number of gold medals at stake in the tournament to 12 following the inclusion of women's team and individual epee.

"This is a good sign, and we are on track not only toward retaining the title here but also on our preparation for next year's SEA Games," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee and former head of the Philippine Amateur Fencing Association.

DAYRIT

Bauzon, daughter of former Philippine Sports Commissioner Josie and ex-basketball star Orly, beat teammate Melly Joy Angeles, 8-6, in the gold medal play. Another Filipina, Lorraine San Diego, bagged the bronze medal.

Reyes topped her event after hacking out a 15-9 win over Indonesian Paulany Ratu. It was also San Diego who took the women's foil bronze in the tournament participated in by six of the 10 SEA Games countries—Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Segui completed the sweep of the first four golds staked in the tournament when he came out winner in another all-Filipino finale in men's foil. He defeated Rolando Canlas, 15-10.

The victories virtually earned for Victorino, Bauzon and Segui slots in the RP delegation to the Busan Asian Games in September. Their inclusion only needs the approval of the Asian Task Force.

Reyes is already assured of a slot for Busan for her silver medal in the SEA Games also in Kuala Lumpur last September. Also assured of berths in the Asiad are Walbert Mendoza and Edmond Velez in men's sabre, Richard Gomez in men's epee and San Diego.

Bedans hold alumni golf tomorrow

THE SAN Beda HS Class '53 and HS Class '78 will hold its annual alumni golf tournament tomorrow at the Club Intramuros Golf Club in Manila.

This year's tournament chairpersons are Dr. Tony Lichauco and Kishu Sehwani of Class '53 and lawyers Noli Partido and Banjo Navarro of Class '78. The annual tournament is expected to attract hundreds of golf enthusiasts and players with actor Richard Gomez and singer Leah Navarro doing the ceremonial tee-off.

Tournament coordinator Anthony Fernandez of Class '53 said the event would kick off a fund raising project intended for the less fortunate and support worthwhile school projects. It will also be a fund raising activity for the grand alumni homecoming celebration for HS Class '53 and HS Class '78 scheduled February 2003.

The event is sponsored by Capitol Memorial Chapels Inc., Capitol International Service Inc., Diners, Outlast Battery, Pediatrica, Karlo de Marcaida, Autoland Inc., Bolong and Rammy Abad, NAESS Shipping Phil. Inc., Corporate Vision Inc., Bench, SYL Forwarders Inc., Ultimate Security and Allied Services Inc., Astra Zeneca, Roche, ShareExchange, Alpha Ship Mgt. Inc., Amethyst Shipping Co. Inc. and newspaper market leader Philippine Daily Inquirer all from Class '78. From Class '53, sponsors are Prudential Guarantee & Assurance Inc., FE Zuellig Corp., San Miguel Corp., Pagoda Phil. Roberto M. Oca Jr., Boysen, Shakey's, Secretary Raul Roco, Utilco, Butch Webber, Abbot Laboratories, UMD General Assurance Inc. and San Miguel Light beer.

For inquiries, call Wilma of the SBC Alumni office at tel. 735-5995.

Villareal fires ace

VINCENT Villareal, product manager of Taisho Pharmaceuticals, scored an ace on the third hole of the Philippine Navy Golf Club course on April 13. In his flight were Navy Captain Celso Gironella and son Jason, Col. Joselito Santos, and Ed Estrada, vice president of Image Dimensions Advertising. Villareal used a Callaway GBB Tungsten Titanium 6 iron and Maxfli DT2 ball on the par 3 180-yarder.

Superio crew enthralled by waterfall in Surigao

SURIGAO—As the crew of the Nissan Exalta GS Superio tried to find ways on how to bulk up its Caltex havoline odometer after its Davao trip was canceled, the four-man crew of the Nissan Exalta GS Superio discovered a picturesque waterfall as they were cruising around this city and its environs Wednesday in the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon.

"While we were driving through a river route called Jabonga, we chanced upon a waterfall called Mayugda" said seasoned marathoner Denny Riel. "We never thought that there was a beautiful tourist spot such as this here."

Their drive around this city and neighboring towns saw the kilometer reading rise to 20,555 as they tried to make up for their cancelled Davao trip.

Before reaching this seaport city, which is the launching pad for the Visayas, the Exalta took in an additional 1,073 kilometers to keep the sedan with a potent but economical QG 1.6-liter engine. It is bidding to shatter the 30,586 kilometers logged by the Sentra Series III seven years ago.

Riel's companions—Bebot Roque, Apey Garcia and Robby David—also expressed admiration for the falls.

MP Turbo, Dickies gear up

THE CELEBRATED MP Turbo Teams of Gulf Oil-zed and Dickies Racing are all set to dispute top class honors at the resumption of the 2002 Subic Grand Prix Series in the Subic International Raceway, SBMA Freeport this weekend.

"We are extremely confident that we will be able to bag podium honors in the different classes this weekend," said team manager Mike Potenciano. "We were in a more adverse situation at the start of last year's series but we eventually improved in the rounds that followed to end up fourth in the Super Saloon class and as champions in the Production category at the end of the season."

The multi-titled racing team's major sponsors for the series are Gulf Oil, the lubricant specialist, zed, the world's largest mobile service provider, and Dickies, the sporting apparel for people on the go. Likewise supporting the team are Abante Newspaper, Francisco Motors Corporation, Yehey.com, AER Engines, ROTA wheels, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, Racegear, BLTB Co.l, Bavarian Machine Works, and Fastrack.

RACING CHAMPION

Two-time circuit racing champion Georges Ramirez of Team Globe-Petron in action during the first round of the Asian Touring Car Championship, centerpiece event of the Asian Festival of Speed at the Subic International Raceway. Ramirez defeated Macau Grand Prix veteran Lo Kan Chun of Hong Kong to rule Division II.

Extreme challenge tomorrow

THE NATURAL terrain of Mindanao will be even more challenging for truck drivers as the 2002 Caltex Delo 4x4 Extreme Challenge stages its second leg in Mangima, Bukidnon on April 27-28.

Dubbed the "Mangima Off Road Challenge," it is said to be the most challenging race because of the rougher uphill climbs, the slimier mud pits and the grueling obstacles that will test participants' ingenuity, wits and skills to the limit.

Registration is open. Interested participants may inquire with To-Ong at the 199 Offroad House tel. 253-601 or 0917-5308224 or at the Nasfor secretariat c/o Sonee Pili at 899-0835 or 0919-2890557.

Santiago scooter favorite

FIRST-LEG winner Ivan Santiago tries to duplicate his smashing victory last month when the 2002 Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships—the biggest scooter competition in the country—resume this weekend at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Santiago, who barged into prominence by ruling the Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos Cup on Feb. 10, swept the expert open and 70cc categories during the kickoff leg in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and sponsored by Shell Advance.

Santiago defeated Mark Anthony Barcial and Jolet Jao in the expert open category and Albert Sarmiento, Michael Castro and Randy Ortiz in the 70cc class to complete a double victory before a wildly cheering opening-day crowd.

For details, call E.L. Racing Tech at tel. 660-2071.

Havoline team eyes repeat

THE CALTEX-Havoline Racing Team eyes a repeat of its first leg feat behind multi-titled Jody Coseteng, Oscar Aguilar and Patrick Mendiola as the SVI Subic Grand Prix stages its second leg this weekend at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

Coseteng, the Caltex-Globe Telecom skipper who impressed the crowd by rebounding from 12th place and prevailing, will be gunning for another triumph in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship and his second straight win in the SVI Blaze Super Saloon Series together with another Caltex-Havoline driver Nilo Pazcoguin.

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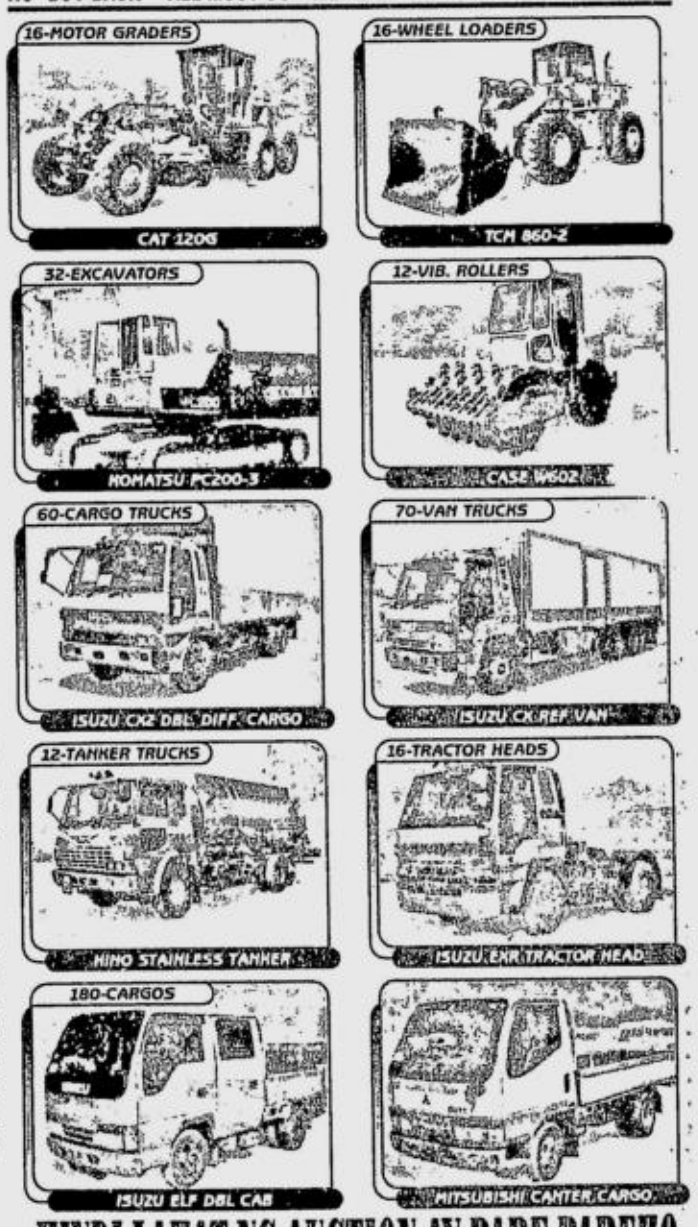

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Jao launches bid for 3rd super bike title

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell-YRS Racing Team launched his bid for an unprecedented third straight super bike title when he dominated the opening rounds of the 2002 Shell Advance Road Racing Championships before a big weekend crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Looking confident in his Yamaha R6, Jao swept his rivals twice in the day to take top honors in the centerpiece expert open category in this annual event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

"I really worked hard for this win. *Talagang gusto kong manalo uli kaya pinaghandaan kong mabuti itong karera,*" said Jao, who holds the distinction as the only rider in local history to win the titles in motocross, scooter and road racing.

"*Sana, magtuloy-tuloy na uli ito,*" added Jao, also a former Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) awardee. He also bagged the title in the inaugural staging in 1997 and repeated in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Jao's chief rivals—Rod Scott and Toti Alberto—failed to keep pace and settled for second and third places, respectively.

Scott clocked 22:31.070 for second place, while Alberto timed 22:44.505 for third place.

Shell-YRS Racing team manager Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio attributed Jao's impressive showing to the "riders' determination to excel and Shell's racetrack—tested motorcycle oil and lubricants."

LOTTO 6/42
31 35 21 27 14 36 Luzon
5 17 11 39 14 22 Vis / Min

SIX DIGIT
4 0 6 4 9 4
(in exact order)

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Playoffs, First Round – Philadelphia vs Boston, Game 2 at 8 a.m. (r – 5:30 p.m.), Portland vs LA Lakers, game 2 at 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Anthology—'85 Los Angeles Lakers (Return To Glory) at 5 p.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Tour Highlights, Worldcom Classic at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

BRAIN SWELLING
Filipino boxer dies after lapsing into coma

MARUEL Zayas became the latest entry in the growing list of Filipino boxers who died due to ring-sustained injuries yesterday. He was only 21.

Born in Butuan City but based in Mabalacat, Pampanga, Zayas was declared dead at 12:05 p.m. at the Ramos General Hospital in Tarlac City, five days after being dealt a ninth-round knockout loss by Alex Escaner in their 10-round super bantamweight fight at the Tarlac Convention Center.

Zayas was brought to an ill-equipped hospital in Paniqui town 20 minutes after being beaten by Escaner and slipped into coma while in transit to the Ramos General Hospital. He never regained consciousness.

Doctors at the Ramos General Hospital did not perform any operation, but subjected Zayas to two CT scan procedures. The first was taken Sunday and the second on Wednesday

The death of Zayas was relayed to Dr. Nasser Cruz, chief of the Games and Amusements Board medical division.

"It's just really unfortunate that this has happened. But this is part of the sport," said Cruz, noting that the cause of death was the swelling of Zayas' brain.

According to reports, Zayas managed to get up on his feet before the count reached eight, but had to be brought down the ring on a stretcher when he complained to Cruz and Dr. Renato Alampay, also of the GAB, of headache and drowsiness.

Zayas' death came even as another Filipino boxer, Sonny Boco, is still confined at a hospital in Chantaburi, Thailand, after undergoing two operations. Boco was stopped in the fifth round as he failed to wrest the Pan Asia Boxing Association mimimumweight crown on April 11 in Poipet, Cambodia.

Among the Filipino boxers who have died in the pursuit of their profession were Andy Balaba, Restituto Espineli, Mauro Saucelo, Macky Silvano and Eugene Barutag.

Aces make semifinals

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola
5:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

RON Riley sank three marginal freethrows as Alaska survived a scorching Federal Express run, 74-71, and advanced to the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena last night.

Accidentally fouled by Jermaine Walker while uncorking a triple in the final 3.7 seconds, Riley coolly converted his three freebies that paved the way for the Aces' entry into the next round.

"I told them at the start that if we try to outscore FedEx we are not going to win. To win, we should put up a good defense and we did the job," said Alaska coach Tim Cone after foiling the Express' bid to force a decider.

James Head, Don Allado and Ron Riley typified the crippling defensive blanket thrown by the Aces as they botched what could have been a game-clinching basket by Walker in the last 12 seconds.

They collapsed on a driving Walker, forcing the 6-foot-5 import to miss at point-blank range that led to an Express turnover.

That defensive gem freed the blame from Head, who, for a minute, lost his cool and was assessed a technical foul to the delight of the Express.

Head sued for time with 27 ticks to go and threw the ball violently at Dindo Pumaren after the referees ignored his clamor for a timeout.

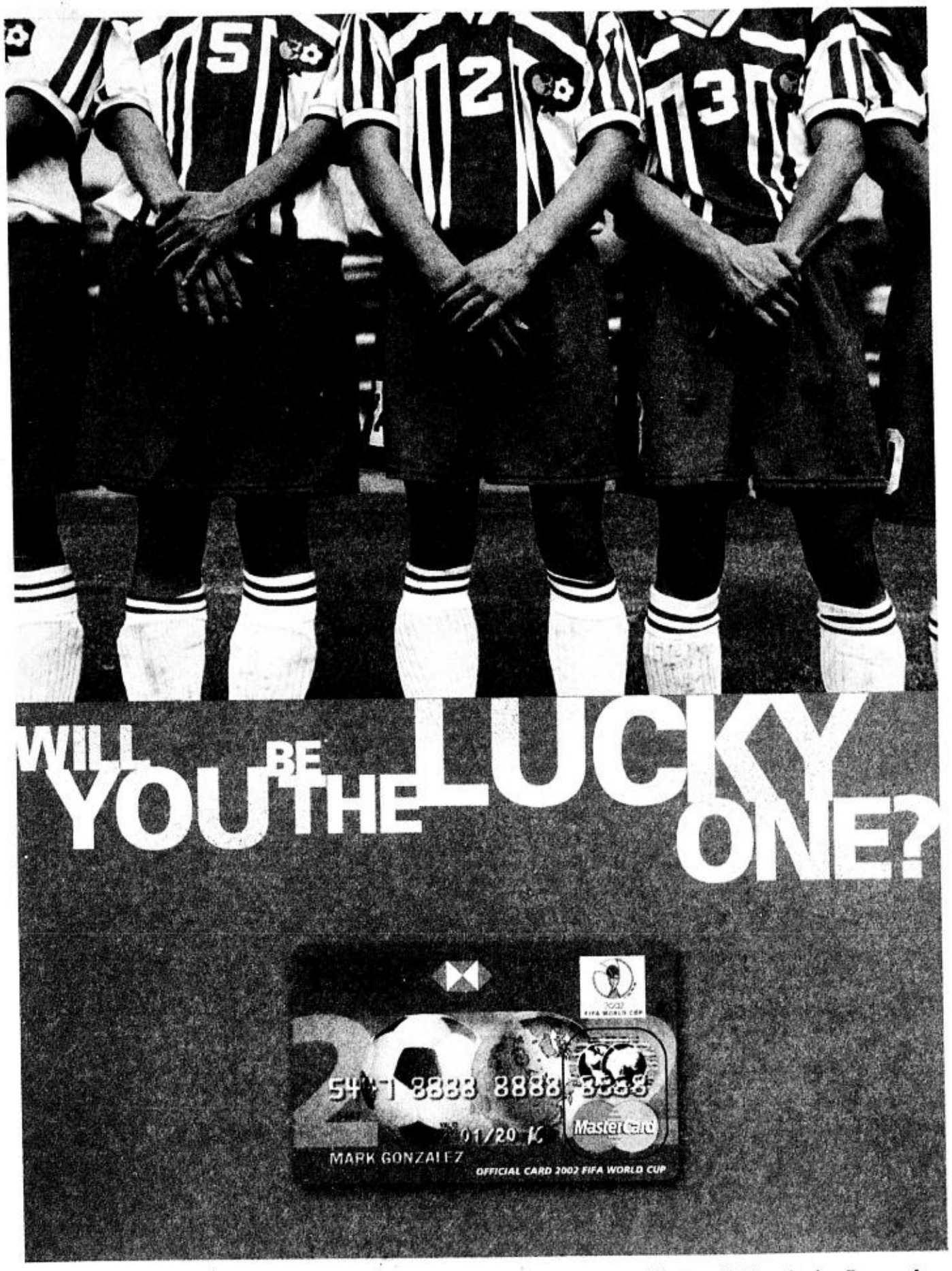
Instead, Head fetched a technical that allowed Walker to tie the count at 71 from the stripe.

"For a while, James (Head) lost his head but we made a big stop and lo and behold we're in the semis now," said Cone.

"Who would think we could enter the semis? Only two weeks ago, the morale of the team was at its lowest," he added.

The Express, who clinched the fifth seat in the quarterfinals, could have turned the outcome around had Walker made the drive and rookie Ren-ren Ritualo recovered the loose ball in the dying seconds.

Scores:
ALASKA 74—Riley 25, Head 21, Allado 10, Santos 7, Wallkvist 6, Gahol 3, Lastimosa 2.
FEDEX 71—Moore 25, Walker 22, Ritualo 7, arboleda 6, De Ocampo 6, Pumaren 2, alvarez 2, Codiñera 2, Capobres 0.
Quarters: 26-26; 48-51; 65-54; 74-71.



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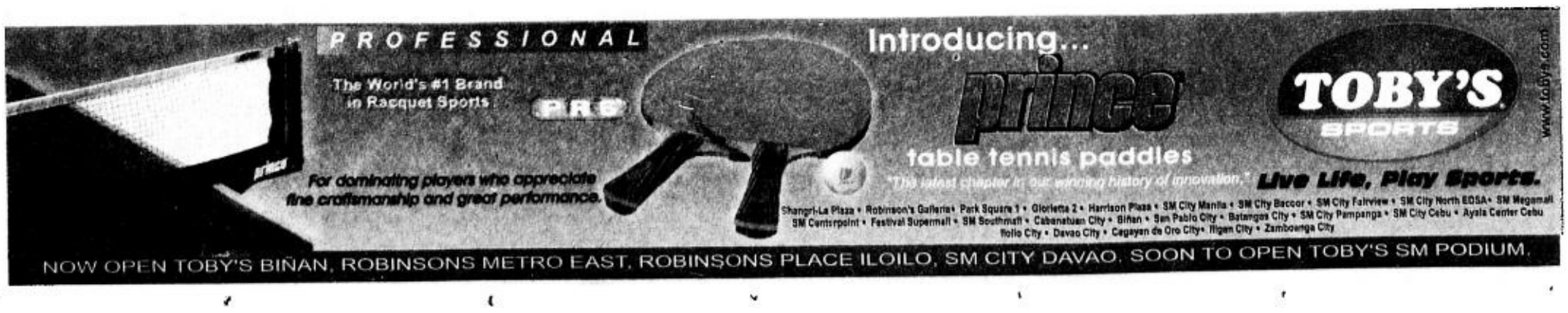

■ Bare Eye: Doy Laurel—How not to hide a historic stink /A26
■ Maganto seeks dismissal of complaint/A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ 2 charged with slay /A28

Woman shot dead in taxi identified

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE WOMAN shot and killed inside a taxi in Makati City on Tuesday was a businesswoman from Pasig City who had been separated from her husband for seven years, police said yesterday.

Investigator PO2 Juvenal Barbosa said police are looking into the possibility that Teresita Syquioco's marital problems had something to do with her killing.

Initial investigation showed that the 44-year-old Syquioco, a resident of Manggahan in Pasig, was facing an adultery charge filed by her husband Jose, according to Barbosa.

Taxi driver Romeo Canlas, who witnessed the killing, told police that he overheard Syquioco's companions threaten her that they would "take her in" because she had a pending case at a Pasig Regional Trial Court.

But the woman resisted, saying she had no case pending before any court, the driver told police.

As Canlas was driving on C-5 Road, one of the men shot the woman in the head and chest.

The suspects then ordered the driver to take them to Kalayaan Avenue and later to J.P. Rizal Extension in Makati, where they ordered Canlas to get down from the cab, police said.

Syquioco's body was still in the cab when it was found a few hours later near the corner of Camia and J.P. Rizal streets in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, police said.

BELTRAN

■ Beltran pays power bill 'under protest' /A28

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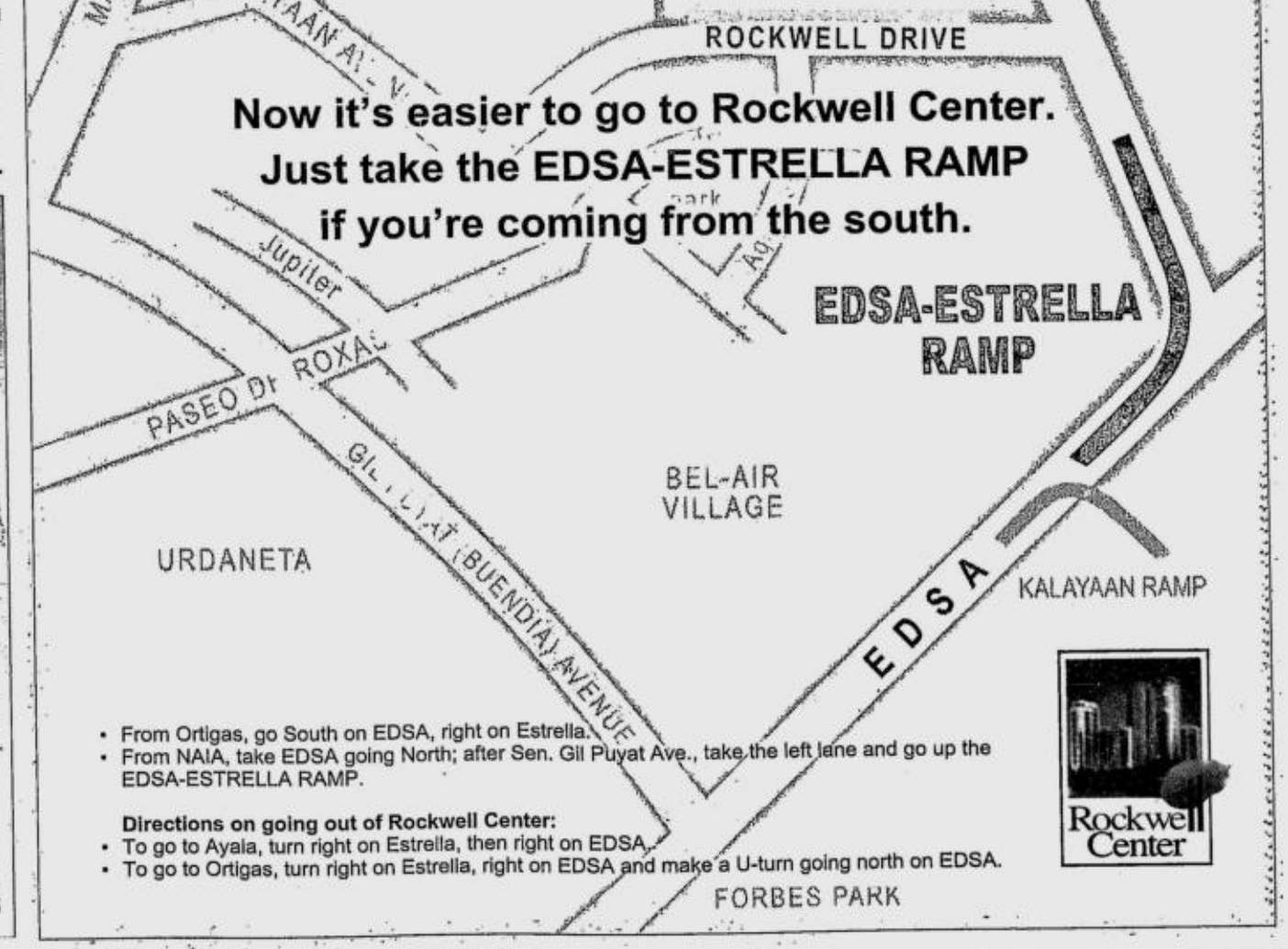
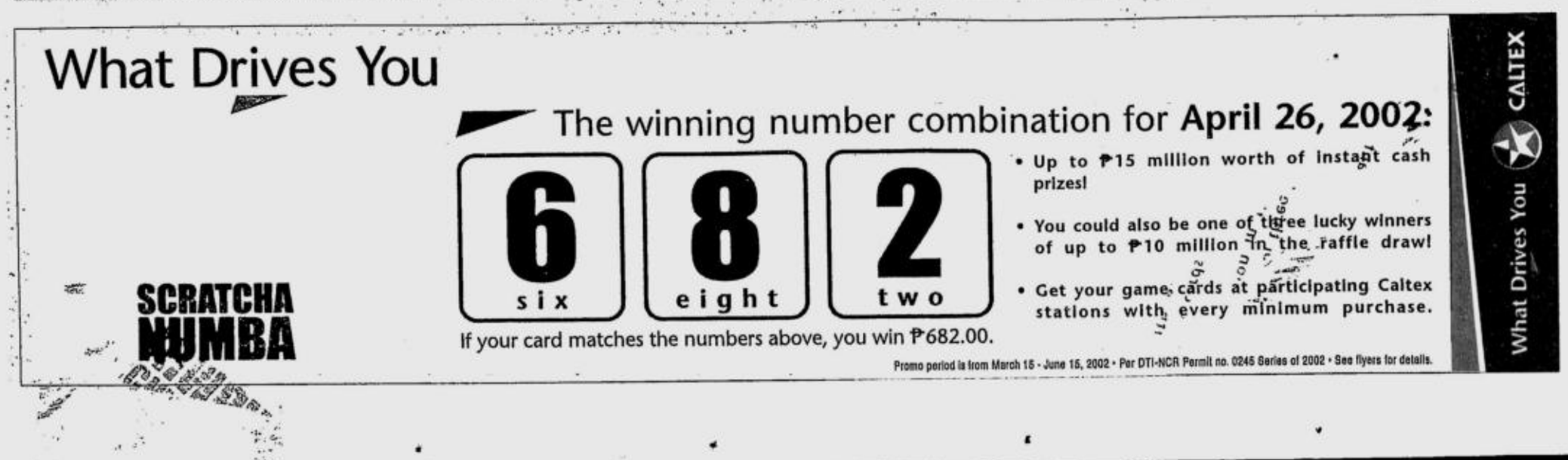




'Get a rally permit'

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

"GET A permit for your own protection."

This was the advice Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday gave to various labor groups and Estrada loyalists, who will stage demonstrations in the city on May 1.

Atienza's spokesperson, Armand Sebastian, also said the mayor had ordered the police to exercise maximum tolerance and avoid a repeat of the violent dispersal of rallies that took place a few weeks ago.

But despite Atienza's "no permit, no rally" policy, about 50 members of the People's Movement Against Poverty were able to hold a lightning rally yesterday at the back of city hall, calling for the release of PMAP leader Ronald Lumbao.

"Free him! Free him!" shouted the protesters, who waved red and blue banners, on Arroceros Street at the back of city hall at about 11 a.m. yesterday. The demonstrators had marched from Mendiola.

"They have no permit," said Senior Supt. Ernesto Ibay, chief of the city hall special operations group. "But I talked to the leaders to avoid any confrontation."

He said the protesters were allowed to hold their rally for 20 minutes while more than 40 anti-riot policemen guarded them. The protesters dispersed after 30 minutes.

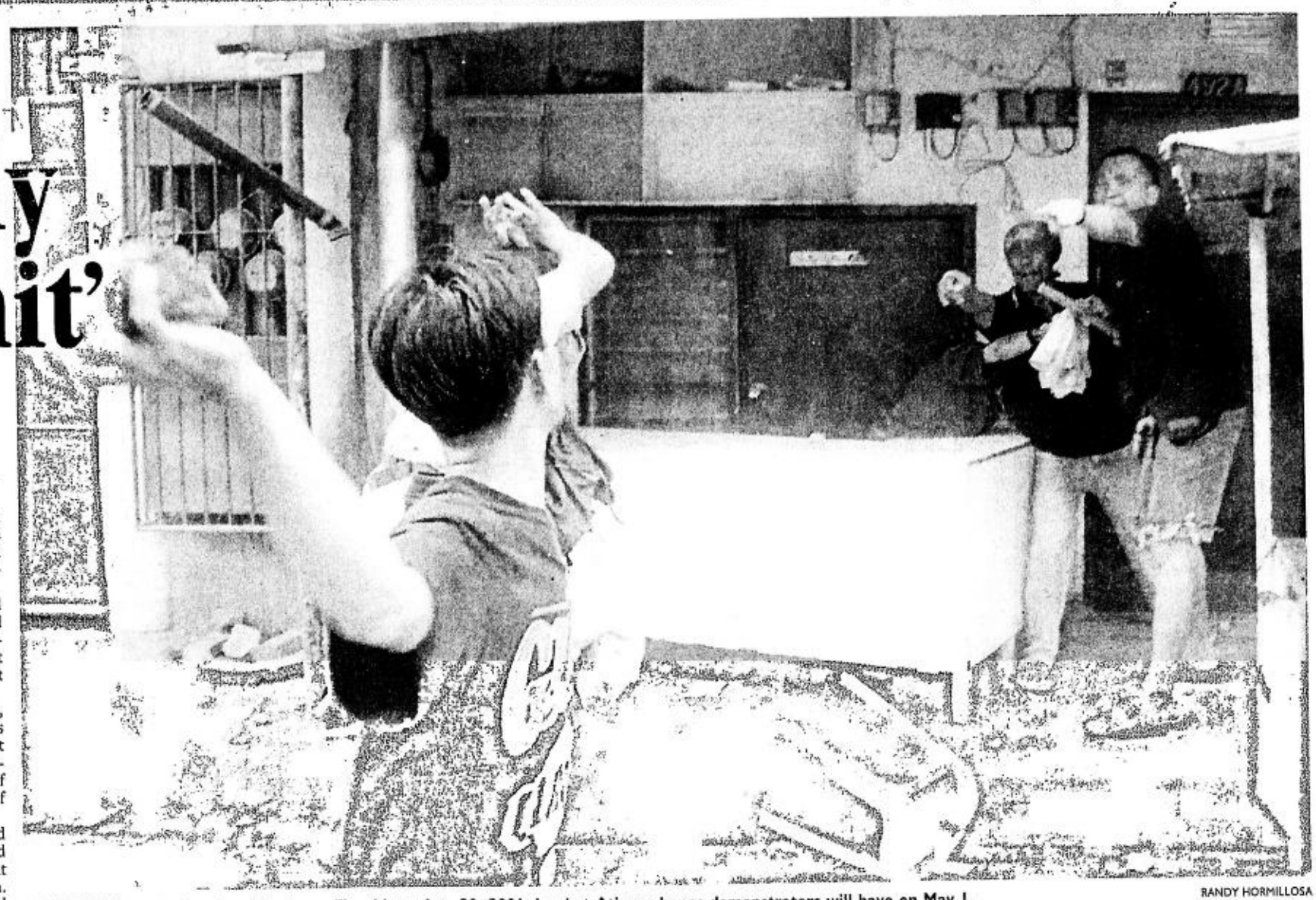
"We thank the police and Mayor Atienza," a man said over the groups' sound system as the protesters withdrew.

Atienza had also asked the police to "keep apart" the pro-Erap groups from the anti-Estrada groups to avoid any outbreak of violence during rallies on May 1.

May 1, or Labor Day, is also the first anniversary of the so-called "Edsa Tres," the aborted siege of Malacañang by Estrada supporters.

Several people were killed and dozens were injured when policemen and soldiers dispersed the demonstrators.

The protesters also set fire to motor vehicles and damaged shops along C.M. Recto Avenue from the Don Chino (formerly Mendiola) Bridge to Divisoria.



A PEACEFUL protest, not a violent one like this on Jan. 20, 2001, is what Atienza hopes demonstrators will have on May 1. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Maganto seeks dismissal of complaint

CHIEF Supt. Romeo Maganto asked a Quezon City court to stop a Philippine National Police body from acting on a recommendation to dismiss him from service for allegedly harassing a Chinese kidnap suspect.

Maganto on Tuesday filed his petition for prohibition, mandamus with temporary restraining order and damages before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Named as respondents were Director Lucas Managuelod, PNP chief of Directorate for Investigation and Detective management; kidnapping suspect Shie Shioa Fung and his lawyer Atty. Emelita Habacon Garayblas; and the PNP Summary Dismissal Board headed by Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon.

Maganto also demanded that the respondents pay him P2.5 million in damages and attorney's fees.

Records showed that Garayblas filed an administrative complaint against Maganto on Jan. 11 for maltreating Fung who was detained at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation office.

Fung was accused of kidnapping the wife and son of Sze Nang Kong, whom Maganto was helping to find his family members.

Maganto pointed out in his petition that Garayblas' complaint was "not even supported by any affidavit coming from the supposed victim himself (Fung), nor was (the complaint) attested by Fung."

He said that the complaint was filed before the office of Managuelod, whom he claimed had no jurisdiction over the matter.

The office of the PNP chief was the PNP agency that investigates administrative charges filed against police officers, Maganto said.

"The foregoing defects notwithstanding, Managuelod proceeded to act on Garayblas' complaint—instead of dismissing it outright," Maganto said.

Managuelod reportedly recommended "summary dismissal proceeding" in Maganto's case. A summary dismissal board, headed by Cabigon, was subsequently formed.

Agnes E. Donato, with Angeli A. Alagcan

Doy Laurel: How not to hide a historic stink

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(RIGHT RECORD: Manny Oyson, boxing scholar and veteran newsman, writes from his Cebu law office to offer timely corrections on that April 19 column on Flash Elorde and Roberto Cruz. He clarifies that Cruz did not become world champion until March 21, 1963. Which means Cruz did not lose his world crown in 1962, as had been claimed by one of our readers, because he did not have it then. Oyson says Cruz lost the world junior welterweight title in his first defense on June 15, 1963 in Manila. Also, Benny Kid Paret did not appear on the same card where Cruz became champion. It was Ultimino "Sugar" Ramos who fought and dethroned Davey Moore that same night of March 21 1963. Paret, according to both the Ring Record and Boxing Encyclopedia and the Guinness Boxing Records, was knocked out by Emile Griffith in round 10 a year earlier on March 24, 1962. Paret died 10 days later because of injuries suffered during that. A salute and thanks, sir.)

***

HE cried that the big cheats had used our ancestors.

A shock and shame: *"Niloko nila ang ating mga ninuno."*

It was sacrilege, he screamed: *"Nakakarimarim."*

Asked to explain further, the multi-awarded poet-novelist said he, too, had been asked to join the Centennial literary contest.

He didn't even think. He turned it down.

He said he knew even then that the literary contest, which offered hefty prices, would also be used to camouflage the anomalous construction of the P1.2B Freedom Ring of the 1998 Philippine Centennial Expo project.

***

It was not their fault. But both San Miguel Beer and Fernando Poe. Jr. could have also been taken for a ride.

Remember that explosive Centennial beer commercial featuring the king of Philippine movies in various stages of heroism?

Producers had agreed to use the vast Centennial Expo grounds in a bid to make the product appear authentic.

You see, this reporter happened to have played an insignificant bit role in that commercial that was masterfully mounted by Peque Gallaga.

We stayed at the Centennial Expo site for a whole day.

Just an hour around the grounds had irrevocably convinced us of the shameless stink that surrounded its construction.

***

In a subsequent report, we did not hesitate to brand the overpainted Expo Palace a Cardboard Kingdom.

The project was hands-down a national depository of gimmickry and corruption.

OK, the design and facilities did appear classy, even artful, to the untrained eye. But a closer look, a slight touch, predictably pulled all the cheap trappings down.

The supposedly historic facilities— ancient walls, gothic towers, etc.—could at best have succeeded only as movie production props.

Thin plywood was generally carved and painted to appear as hard, historic rock.

It was a historic sell-out.

***

All the while, there had been fears justice hereabouts had also been sold out.

But what could be better than this happy, exciting, assuring news yesterday that the Supreme Court has approved the filing of charges against those involved in the monumental Centennial Expo scam.

Man in the middle of the storm was no less than Salvador Laurel of Batangas, identified as former vice president and National Centennial Commission chair.

The news, front page stuff here and banner in Today, said the Supreme Court has dismissed Doy Laurel's petition seeking to stop the Ombudsman from suing him before the Sandiganbayan.

Laurel is a calibered lawyer. But the High Court disproved his main argument that the Ombudsman cannot prosecute him for lack of jurisdiction.

The justices ruled that Laurel could be charged with graft because the Centennial Commission was itself a public office.

Ergo, Laurel as its chair was a public official.

***

Anyway, here are damaging details earlier discovered by the Ombudsman:

Bidding, negotiation and award of the P1.165B Freedom Ring contract to Asia Construction Development Authority (AK) were marred by irregularities.

The award was done only with a "semblance of bidding" and no invitation to bid was advertised in any newspaper.

The bidding was held with no standard set for design and estimated cost of construction (of the project).

There was an absence of technical and financial evaluation of bids.

There was also a premature opening of bids, with Laurel imperiling the secrecy of the sealed bids by opening the envelopes in his law office on Dec. 18, 1996, a day earlier than scheduled.

All told, the Supreme Court ruling against Laurel is a sterling triumph for Rene Saguisag, intrepid freedom fighter, who had also recommended the prosecution of his friend Fidel Ramos for alleged involvement in the Centennial scam.

Let's proceed with the trial, Your Honor.

Street gang members kill young man in Manila

By Philip Tubeza

STREET gangs in Manila are getting bolder.

Twelve members of the Temple Street gang shot and killed Joydan C. Villegas, 23, a resident of Norma Street, while he and his friends were having a drink before dawn yesterday, police said.

According to detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section, Temple Street gang members were seen roaming the area of Norma and G. Tuazon streets in Sampaloc looking for members of a rival gang, the True Brown Style.

"Riots happen almost nightly in this area because they are fighting for 'supremacy' in their neighborhood," said Olavario in his report.

At about 2:45 a.m., the gang members passed by Villegas and his friends who were having a drink, and challenged Villegas' group to a fight, Olavario said.

But Villegas and his friends ignored the suspects because they saw most of the gang members were "young," Olavario said.

The culprits left but returned minutes later, provoking a fight with Villegas' group by throwing bottles and stones, Olavario said.

At the height of the rumble, two gunshots rang out and Villegas' friends saw the victim slump on the pavement, police said.

The suspects fled while Villegas was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila. The victim died before he reached the hospital, Olavario said.

Cop shoots 2 robbers to death

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA policeman PO3 Enrico C. Cerenio shot dead two robbers who held up passengers of the jeepney he was riding, in front of the Manila City Hall on Wednesday night.

Cerenio, of the Asuncion Police community Precinct in Tondo, single-handedly stopped and killed the alleged robbers, one of whom was identified as Claudio A. Sibil Jr., 27, of San Juan, said detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District homicide section.

The other slain man remained unidentified and was described as slim, around 30 years old, 5-foot-5, barefoot, and wearing a black shirt and denim pants. He also had body tattoos.

Salazar said the robbery happened at about 9 p.m. on board a southbound jeepney while it was in front of city hall.

The jeep was on its way to Pasay from Blumentritt when the two men, who were armed with fan knives, announced the holdup.

Cereneo said he introduced himself as a policeman and told the two men to surrender.

But instead of surrendering, they allegedly tried to fight back and attacked the policeman, investigators said.

Cereneo said he was forced to draw his gun and opened fire at the suspects. Sibil was hit twice in the face while the other man was hit twice in the body.

Warehouse man killed in car parts robbery

A 37-YEAR-OLD warehouse man was killed in an apparent robbery inside a car spare parts center in Paco, Manila on Wednesday.

Victor Cabiles, a native of Bacolod City, was found dead by three of his co-employees in the garage of El Dorado Car Components Center on Pedro Gil Street, said detective Edison Bertoldo of the Western Police District homicide section.

The still unidentified killer forcibly opened the company cash box and took P18,000, Bertoldo said.

He said the victim's body was discovered by his co-worker Fernando Punongbayan, 28, when the latter went to work at about 9 p.m. yesterday. Punongbayan told investigators that he got suspicious when he found their office still closed.

He said Cabiles, who also lived in the car center, normally opened the garage at 8 p.m. *Philip Tubeza*

JUBILEE

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay (left) recently met with UP Ruby Jubilarians (Class 1962) to plan the general alumni homecoming and reunion on June 15, at the UP Bahay ng Alumni on the Diliman campus in Quezon City. With Binay, who is the jubiliarians' adviser, are secretary-treasurer Eunice Vargas and members Florido Casuela and Felipe Nazario. Binay has allowed the jubilarians to use his office on the 21st floor of the new Makati city hall when they meet every Friday afternoon.

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9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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9	SNOW DOGS
10	BLADE 2

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7	BLADE 2
8	SCORPION KING

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1	BLOW DRY
2	CLOSED
3	TIME MACHINE
4	BLADE 2
5	MIMIC 2
6	SCORPION KING
7	CLOSED
8	EVIL WOMAN

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2	
3	
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
8	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

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5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING

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Prima
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3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

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3	PISTOLERO
4	RESERVE
5	CLOSED

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1	
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3	
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6	

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Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
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2	RUSH HOURS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

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2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

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2 (DTS)	ROLLERBALL
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

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(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY)	SHOWTIME
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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2	ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

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2	G BAWAL
3	SA PILI
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas MovieCity
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3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4	PAROLA
5	S2PID LUV

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2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

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2	ROLLERBALL
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Olivarez Tagaytay
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3	ITLOG

Morales Cinema
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2	RESERVE
3	SHOWTIME

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1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	S2PID LUV
3	SCORPION KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	S2PID LUV
2	TIME MACHINE
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	E T

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIG)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

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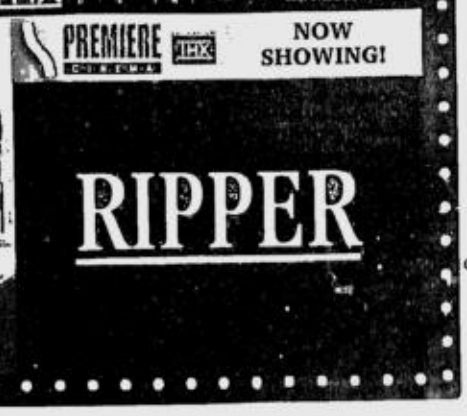

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3	ROLLERBALL
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6	E.T.
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8	SHOWTIME

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4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	I AM SAM
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2	BLADE 2
3	EVIL WOMAN
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5	BLOW DRY
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

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2 charged with slay

JEEPNEY drivers Juan Tamayo of Pateros, and Gilbert Acebron of Cainta, Rizal, were charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide for the death of a 10-year-old boy in Binangonan, Rizal early this week.

Police records showed that while Tamayo and Acebron were driving their passenger jeepneys on the national highway in Barangay Pantok Monday morning, they ran over Fredmar Lacostales, who died on the spot.

Tamayo in his jeepney hit Lacostales first, followed by Acebron, who ran the boy down, said SPO1 Alvin Millares. Several witnesses said the jeepneys were running fast when they hit the boy.

Nelson F. Flores

Beltran pays power bill 'under protest'

By Agnes E. Donato

WHEN Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran paid his electricity bill for April yesterday at the Manila Electric Co. branch on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, he only paid the basic charge and not the Power Purchased Adjustment and other fees, which made up about 50 percent of the bill.

The congressman, who is the most outspoken critic of Meralco and its proposed power rate increase, also stamped his bill with the words "paid under protest," using a rubber stamp that he said he made himself.

Beltran, who lives in a squatters' area in Batasan Hills in Quezon City, said he would do this every time he paid his electric bill. He said his family's household appliances consist only of an old refrigerator, two TV sets, a VCD player, a rice cooker, an electric iron, fluorescent lights and five electric fans.

"We don't have an air-conditioner or any such appliances that utilize much electricity," he said. "But our total electricity consumption for April amounted to 387 kilowatt hours. For this, we are being made to pay P2,537, or P80 a day." About 50 percent of this amount is composed of the PPA. Another P80.90 goes to the currency adjustment.

"I'm being charged P1,255.90 for electricity that has supposedly been stolen by users of jumpers, or lost to Meralco because of technical problems in its system," Beltran said.

Meralco has more than 13 million poor and middle-consumers who are being forced to pay the PPA, he said.

Beltran also reiterated that Meralco's alleged collusion with independent power producers such as its sister company, First Gas, was to blame for the electric company's exorbitant fees.

"First Gas did not supply Meralco a single kilowatt, yet consumers are being charged for Meralco's deal with it," he said.

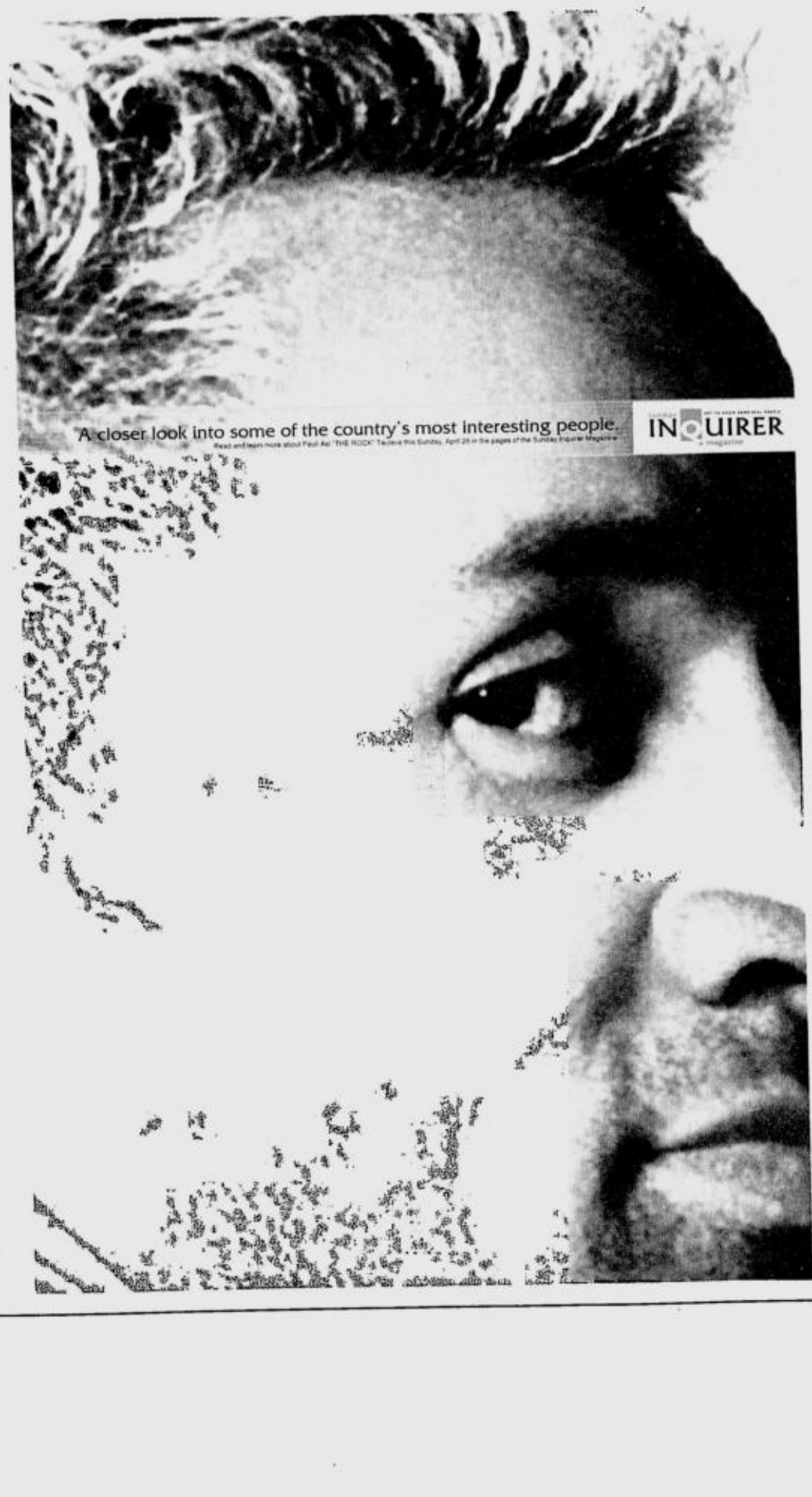
Beltran also cited another power producer, Quezon Power, which he claimed had been charging Meralco P6 per kilowatt hour compared to the P3.40 per kwh which the National Power Corp. charged.

The investigations being conducted by the Department of Justice and the National Economic and Development Authority were taking too long, Beltran said.

Bayan Muna representatives and other congressmen will formally announce today the formation of their new alliance, the "Parliamentarians against PPA."

Among the participating congressmen are Reps. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa), Ted Failon (Leyte), Jose Solis (Sorsogon), Antonio Abaya (Isabela), Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), Edgar Erice (Caloocan City), Felix Alfelor (Camarines Sur), Gilbert Remulla (Cavite), Antonio Nachura (Western Samar) and Abraham Kahlil Mitra (Palawan).

Beltran said they were the congressmen who had expressed support for the Bayan Muna resolution calling for investigations into the PPA and Meralco's contracts with the government and independent power producers.



General Camiling consults Madam

WITH the scramble for the top post in the Armed Forces heating up, Lt. Gen. Gregorio M. Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff, thinks perhaps he should go for all the help he can get, including even consulting fortune teller Madame Auring. Camiling and the seer were at a recent gathering where President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor. Besides Camiling, the other candidates hoping to replace AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, who retires next month, are Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu and Army chief Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago.

CAMILING and Madam Auring.

Taguig marks 415th anniversary

ABOUT 4,000 representatives from the local government, schools and private sector joined the "Forward Taguig" parade on April 21, the kickoff activity for the opening of the weeklong celebration of the municipality's 415th founding anniversary.

Mayor Freddie Tinga led the parade, which culminated at the municipal quadrangle B, a recently developed 6,322 square meters of open space.

On April 22, Tinga officially launched the food security and anti-poverty alleviation project of the local government in cooperation with Mayor Teoderico Padilla Jr. and the town of Sta. Fe, Nueva Viscaya. Both mayors formally announced the implementation of a bilateral livelihood program where major agricultural products of Sta. Fe will be procured by Taguig through a cooperative scheme.

Residents of Sta. Fe who are engaged in the production of agricultural and livestock products will have direct buyers from Taguig, in accordance with the memorandum of agreement signed by the two municipalities. The opening of an agro-industrial fair selling products from Sta. Fe followed the ceremony. In the afternoon, 325 couples participated in the Kasalang Bayan, a mass wedding officiated by Tinga.

Other festivities lined up for the week are medical missions, a cooking festival, a jobs fair, symphony concert, marathon, bicycle race, awards night for outstanding Taguigeños, mini-Olympics, coronation of the Mutya ng Taguig 2002 on April 27 and the Tagagiik Festival on April 28.

The Tagagiik festival is street dancing reminiscent of the Sinulog of Cebu and the Atiatihan of Aklan. Taguig's name was derived from the word "tagagiik" or palay thresher, the common occupation of the early natives of Taguig.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 26, 2002
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:26-33
Gospel: Jn 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Commentary

Beginning today, the last discourses of Jesus. Jesus has knelt to wash his disciples' feet, profoundly impressing upon them the spirit of those who are his disciples. After this, he feels distress, knowing that one of them is about to betray him. When Judas has gone, Jesus knows he has little time left, and gives a last gift, the great commandment of love, by which his followers are to be recognized. Immediately afterwards, Peter's denial is foretold. And then the words of today's gospel, words of reassurance. The key word is trust. His going away has a purpose, to prepare our eternal home, to which he is the way. Christianity is not a creed, but a person we know and trust: Christ, the way, the message, and the destination.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy— To establish conspiracy, direct proof is not essential as conspiracy may be inferred from the conduct of the accused before, during and after the commission of the crime, showing that they had acted with a common purpose and design. The accused were united in their purpose to kill the victim as shown by the circumstances. With conspiracy, it is immaterial who between accused Cantonjos and Balag held what weapon and inflicted which wound upon the victim. In conspiracy, the act of one is the act of all. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, People v. Cantonjos, G.R. No. 136748, November 21, 2001].

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Martin returns Onstage

HIS return is inevitable and much anticipated. Now, the wait is finally over.

Concert King Martin Nievera provides amazing nights of total entertainment in a return engagement at Onstage Greenbelt, "Opening Night."

SHOWS

After a highly successful US concert tour, Martin is back and still holds the throne as the most sought-after male performer, with a record-breaking 30 performances to his credit last year.

His gift of gab and distinct comic flair continues to delight his audience. Part of his repertoire for "Opening Night: Martin Nievera Back! Onstage" includes a Brian McKnight medley, a song recorded by Martin with Brian, "Thank You for Saving My Life," a new Broadway 2002 medley, a tribute to great musicals and other surprise numbers.

Another exciting feature of the show is a simulated "Martin Late @ Nite episode," as if the audience is transported to a live taping of the talk show in a TV studio.

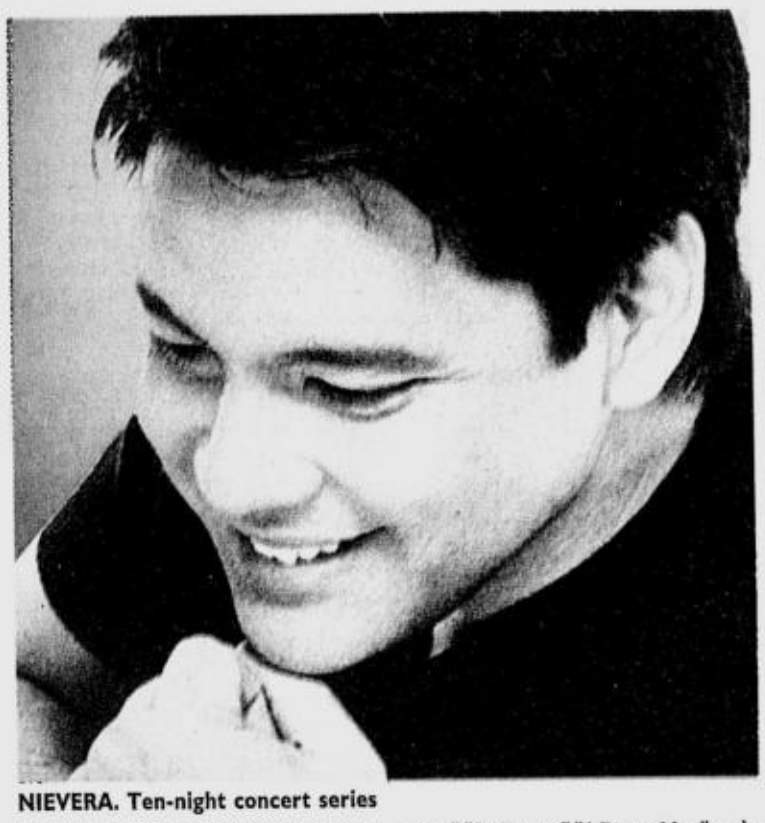
Martin interviews a different celebrity guest each night and also shares a special duet number.

The series runs on May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and 31 at Onstage Greenbelt Mall, Makati City.

Musical director is Louie Ocampo. Tickets at P600, P900 and P1,200 (plus three-percent ticketron service charge) are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Maxi-Media office (551-7777/ 551-8999), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang) and Onstage Greenbelt Ticketron.

"Opening Night: Martin Nievera Back! Onstage" is a production of Big Mouth International for Maxi-Media International.

The series is presented by Smart Simply Amazing and Rexona Mini-Stick, with Clusivol, Beam Toothpaste and Farlin Baby Care Products. It is supported by Chowking, Alberto Shoes, Wendy's Hamburger, Jockey, Sarabia and Carrera, Play and Display, and Don Henrico's.



NIEVERA. Ten-night concert series

SALCEDO

Benefit concert

THE SPIRIT of 67 band performs with Mitch Valdez in a live concert at 7 tomorrow night, April 27, at Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard.

Mitch will blend her brand of wit with the popular beat of the Spirit of 67.

The benefit show is mounted by Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon (LNP) community, a family- based transparochial covenant community. Starting out with 41 men and women in July 1975, the Ligaya now counts some 1,900 members (including children of all ages) from diverse socio- economic backgrounds bound by the common desire to live out the Christian life to the fullest.

The Ligaya ng Panginoon has likewise spawned many other charismatic communities such as Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Lingkod, Couples for Christ, Tahanan ng Panginoon, Familia, to name a few of the more prominent ones in the country.

Proceeds of the concert will be used to strengthen the youth evangelization and outreach programs of the LNP.

Tickets at P300 can be purchased from any member of the Ligaya ng Panginoon or at the gate during the night of the show.

For details, call Inday Arellano at 411-3711 to 13.

Ogie at Virgin Café

BALLADEER Ogie Alcasid performs tonight at Virgin Café Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

Witness the multi-awarded singer-composer set the stage on fire with today's hits and his very own compositions like "Nandito Ako," "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Sa Kanya," "A Better Man" and a lot more.

The show is presented by Virgin Café with Genetic Computer Institute and San Miguel Corporation.

'Caribbean Express'

COOL, jazz, rhythm and blues, these combined with the styles of Whitney Houston and Barbara Streissand are what separate Kelly Grace Salcedo from the rest of the pack. A Filipino singer with Puerto Rican blood, she has won numerous accolades in Guam, Australia and Kuala Lumpur where she regularly commutes for special shows.

At 10 tonight, Kelly is featured in a special show, "Caribbean Express," with Symposium Band at the Caribbean Bar and Restaurant at the basement of Dusit Hotel.

The Symposium Band is composed of Noel Mangilinan on drums, Rey Mangilinan on keyboards, Francis Camaya on bass guitar, Michael Macatuno on guitars, Ice Petrollado and Sandy Banawa on vocals.

Repertoire will be mostly pop, jazz, rhythm and blues and most requested top hits.

A few months ago, Kelly recorded "Dakila Ka," a duet with Nonoy Zuñiga for the album, "Awit Abroad." The song pays tribute to the heroism of Overseas Filipino Workers. It is composed by Rolly Amaranto, produced by Artistika Music and distributed by Ivory Records.

'Under My Spell'

LADINE Roxas who's on the brink of international music stardom, stages her first major concert, "Under My Spell," 9 tonight at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, with Rannie Raymundo as special guest.

The show is directed by Angie Magbanua, with Christine Blando as choreographer, Noel Ferrer as writer and Toti Fuentes as musical director.

"Under My Spell" is Ladine's send-off concert before she leaves for London to promote her international album, "How Can I Make You Love Me," under UK's Candia Records.

The album's launch is set for June 2 at the Equinox Disco in Leicester Square.

During the show, Ladine will also launch her new music video of "How Can I Make You Love Me," the title track and carrier single of her album. The video is directed by Louie Ignacio.

SPIRIT of '67 performs in a benefit concert.

Lani has mastered the art of entertaining

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NEVER mind if she sang again **Luciano Pavarotti**'s "Nessun Dorma" (which she also did in her CCP concert in October last year) or if she rehashed her "Divas" act for the nth time. **Lani Misalucha** certainly knew how to entertain and entertain she did.

Last Friday, in her ongoing concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt (presented by Crossover 105.1), Lani belted out one song number after another and the audience applauded. She gave a generous serving of popular tunes and the audience sang with her. She tried to ape her fellow divas and the crowd roared with laughter.

She was not the best performer, though, when it comes to spiels, but Lani still managed to establish rapport with her audience.

"I'll watch Lani anytime," said my writer friend **Shirley Matias-Pizarro**.

Lani surprised the full-house crowd when she sauntered onstage in a shimmering white opera coat (by **Rajo Laurel**) with a glittering headdress and sang "Queen of the Night." She later removed the coat to reveal her casual garb of acid-washed denims and white tops.

Lani waxed nostalgic about her *puesto* days in hotel lounges.

"At that time, I would do three sets a night and I'd get paid P300," she recalled. Then in jest she said, "But now, we have to talk about the budget when I perform."

She did a beautiful medley of the songs she used to render like "One Hello," "You Should Know By Now," "Never Existed Before," "Bridges" and "Follow Your Road."

She later did the **Patti Austin** version of "It Might Be You" and the crowd loved it.

I noticed, however, that some of the images being shown on the giant screen had nothing to do with Lani's song numbers. When she did her opening salvo with "Queen of the Night," photos of The Parthenon in Greece were being flashed. But neither Lani's costume conformed to being an Athena, the Greek goddess.

When Lani sang "One Hello," there were slides of New York City being shown onscreen. Perhaps concert director **Rowell Santiago** could think of more relevant images for the other performance dates tonight, tomorrow night and the four shows in May.

Lani paid tribute to noted pianist-composer **Michel Legrand** by singing the latter's original compositions in a beautiful medley—the theme from "Love Story," "Windmills of Your Mind," "Pieces of Dreams," "A Piece of Sky," "Summer Me, Winter Me" and "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life."

When it came to thanking her long list of sponsors, Lani did it in a different and more entertaining way, instead of merely reading from the cue cards.

With "Loving You" as background played on keyboards by her musical director **Louie Ocampo**, Lani rattled off her numerous sponsors which were given relatively good exposure on a giant screen.

With the same song, Lani went to the audience and made some of them sing. The most uninhibited rendition of the refrain came from designer **Frederick Peralta**, who can easily have an alternative career as a crooner, with his cool baritone voice.

Lani showed she is at her best when aping her fellow singers. She used to be known as the "multiplex queen," because of an earlier job that required her to record cover versions of pop hits. That's why it seemed effortless for her to sing even like a **Mariah Carey**, **Celine Dion** or **Whitney Houston**. Lani used to be paid for doing that.

She did a **Pilita Corrales**, complete with a back-bending act when she sang "A Million Thanks To You." Her **Zsa Zsa Padilla**'s "Hiram" and **Jaya**'s "Tanging Ikaw" were downright amusing as she tried to imitate even the mannerisms of the two popular divas when performing.

Lani also did a **Sharon Cuneta** with "Maging Sino Ka Man" and ended the portion literally on a high note by singing *a la* **Regine Velasquez** in "On the Wings of Love."

Whitney's hits figured in Lani's repertoire that night. She gave the audience a sizable serving of Whitney's chart-toppers like "I Will Always Love You," "I Have Nothing," "All at Once" and Greatest Love of All." I was waiting for her to sing my favorite Whitney song, "Didn't We Almost Have It All," but quite disappointingly, it was not included in the medley.

Young singer **Tootsie Gueverra** was beside me and she commented, "She's (Lani) so good at singing Whitney's songs. Sometimes, I think she's even better than Whitney."

Lani's guest that night was **Radha**, who impressed the crowd with her vocal prowess by singing "Brown Eyes." Radha is one of the better young performers we have around, but she should work on trimming her figure if she wants to avoid being criticized while performing.

I turned a little sentimental when Lani carried out her OPM hit, "Bukas na Lang Kita Mamahalin," the theme of a romance-drama which starred **Angelu de Leon** and **Diether Ocampo.** The song has heart-wrenching lyrics and tells of a love that came at a wrong time.

"Kay hirap palang umibig sa 'di tamang panahon. Kung bakit ngayon ko lang natagpuan ang isang katulad mo. Sana'y ikaw nga'y nakilala. Sana'y noon pa lang ng ang puso ay malaya pang magmahal.

"Bukas na lang kita mamahalin, sabay sa pag-ikot ng aking puso . . ."

MISALUCHA. Versatile singer

Mid-way into the show, Lani proved her versatility as a singer when she dished out a Latin samba medley. We thought only **Vernie Varga** could do justice to "Shaker Song," but Lani's version was just as good. Lani also sang "Angel of the Night" and "Promises."

One of the new suites in the repertoire was the medley of soap operas where the audience sang with Lani—"Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" and "Pangako sa 'Yo."

As expected, the audience clamored for an encore and Lani returned onstage in a yellow-gold spaghetti-strapped blouse and black pants by **Maxie Cinco.**

She ended her performance with two dance tunes—"Never Can Say Goodbye" and "Last Dance."

Lani was a late-bloomer as a solo artist but she has mastered the art of entertaining. So every time she performs, she only proves what she is best at.

Back with a vengeance

DISH, one of my favorite night haunts, sizzles every Saturday night with the high-energy performance of Rage, the '80s band which returned to the local entertainment scene last year.

Led by singer-keyboardist **Juan Miguel Salvador** and lead vocalist **Marissa Buñag**, Rage sticks to their legacy of singing '80s tunes. It was a conscious effort on their part, said Marissa, to render '80s hits. And their fans certainly approve.

My friends and I trooped to Dish last Saturday without even knowing it was Rage that was performing that night. You can hardly find a table when you go to Dish at 9 p.m. on a Saturday. We arrived for dinner before 8 p.m. and we were already on the waiting list. But we didn't wait long enough. **Vince**, the acting manager, gladly welcomed us and made sure we were seated.

Rage brings instant recall to music fans so even if the band had been away from the music scene for quite a spell, it's as if they never left when they started performing again.

When show bands and jazz were the trend in the local music scene, Rage dauntlessly brought pop-rock and dance music to the fore and became a huge hit.

"We start the show slowly and end it rough," Marissa promised.

The first set consisted of familiar tunes like "Manic Monday," "True," "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now," "Simply the Best" and a lot more.

Juan Miguel and Marissa are two of the most energetic performers I've seen. They can do a 45-minute dance medley and end it hardly panting. And you're talking of two artists who are in their late '30s! They don't even hide their age, but Juan Miguel and Marissa could give younger performers a run for their puesto money with their adrenaline-pumping performance.

Rage left the local music scene in 1988 and staged a farewell concert, "Hollywood or Bust," to pursue their dream of going international.

"That dream did not really become a nightmare," said Marissa that night. "But we came back."

It was a sight to see Marissa gyrating, kicking, dancing, and Juan Miguel jumping onstage even while playing the keyboards. Their energy was simply infectious. Some even found it quite unbelievable.

Rage got the audience to its feet with

LANI/ A30

RAGE sticks to '80s tunes.

Claudine airs her side

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday on "The Buzz," **Claudine Barretto** belatedly but finally gave her side in the **Rico Yan** tragedy, in which she has been painted in a bad light. Her tearful performance appeared to have been intended to maker her a more sympathetic figure, to counter the negative press she's been getting.

But the tears went on too long, so the effect eventually became counter-productive. And the big exposés that were promised never came to pass, so the long interview came off as a bit of an anticlimax.

Well, at least Claudine has finally had her say on the matter, and can now go on to pick up the pieces of her career, which she has to put together in time for the start of production of her new film with **Aga Muhlach**, to be directed by **Rory B. Quintos**.

The new movie project is billed as a "light romance-drama," but questions are being raised as to the appropriateness of such a format, in the light of the Rico Yan tragedy and imbroglio.

One school of thought is that this is exactly what Claudine needs to break away from the turgid upheavals of recent weeks. Keeping it light means keeping it uncontroversial, and Aga's supernice screen image can help sweeten Claudine's own soured appeal.

On the other hand, there are those who fret that viewers maybe expecting something less breezy and escapist, in the context of Rico's death, etc.

If the film makes absolutely no reference to the bruising blows that life deals us from time to time, viewers may find it too wishy-washy to be worth their while.

Well, there are some days to go before shooting starts, so the people behind the movie still have time to fine-tune its story in the light of what has just transpired.

The important thing is that the movie is a success for Claudine when it's shown later this year. Her last film with Rico was a big hit, so if her project with Aga doesn't do as well, it won't be good for Claudine. It could mean that viewers may not have quite "forgiven" her for her real or imagined lapses in the Rico Yan controversy.

Claudine needs that like a hole in the head, so her new movie must be made a sympathetic showcase for her in this regard—but without turning pathetic and going overboard, as her TV interview last Sunday did.

CCP auditions

TANGHALANG Pilipino will be auditioning for new scholarship members from 1 to 5 p.m. on May 7 and 8 at the CCP (Silangan Hall, fourth floor). Successful auditionees will join The Actors' Company, a resident ensemble trained by Tanghalang Pilipino to perform in its productions. Call 832-3661.

Cocoy's concert

DON'T forget **Cocoy Laurel**'s concert tonight at the NBC Tent at the Fort. He will be performing with the Madrigal Singers, Powerdance, and some special guests.

What price celebrity?

WHOOPI Goldberg: In show business, everyone wants a piece of you. It's just take, take, take.

David Niven: To be an actor, it is essential to be an egomaniac. Otherwise, it doesn't work.

Fred Allen: A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized.

Shirley Temple: I stopped believing in Santa Claus at an early age. Mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked me for my autograph!

Lilli Palmer: There is a Jewish saying that a half-truth is a whole lie. Yet in the film business, a whole lie is half the truth. At least.

Ingrid Bergman: They love to build you up. Then they pause a bit. And then they love to tear you down.

Larry Kert: Success can be very disorienting. If it stays, you become spoiled. If it leaves, you become suicidal.

Peter O'Toole: George Bernard Shaw said it best: An actor can have only one great love—himself.

Sir **Robert Morley**: Actors live in a cocoon of praise. They never meet the people who don't like them.

Burt Lancaster: Stars are paid too much. But we're also judged too quickly and harshly. If we make a supposedly controversial statement, next day we may have half the nation hating our guts. Which most of the time amounts to bigotry fueled by jealously.

George Harrison: I believe that, if John Lennon hadn't moved to the United States, he'd be alive today.

Ava Gardner: The public is quick to love you, but they can dislike you for years.

Summer treats

AFTER setting the party tone in Libis, Nueva Vizcaya, Tagbilaran City, Cebu City, Negros, Boracay, Subic, Agusan del Norte, Zamboanga City, Puerto Galera and Baguio the past weeks, San Miguel Beer's "Sarap to Sundown" Summer 2002 is again ready to give everybody more chilling summer treats.

To usher the merry month of May, SMB lines up another serving of the coolest events in the hottest happening places.

On May 3, watch out as SMB parties at Sarabia Manor in Iloilo.

On May 4, weekend fun gets even more exciting as the San Miguel Beer "Sarap to Sundown" Summer 2002 banner flies high in Tropical Summer in Cebu, White Rock in Olongapo, Insular Hotel in Davao via the "SMB Summer Party" and the Havana Waterfest in Malate.

On May 10, watch out as SMB invades Entertainment Depot in Bacolod.

The "SMB Summer Fiesta" then joins the merry-making of the "Pahiyas Festival" in Lucban and the "Mayohan" in Tayabas from May 11 to 15.

Get ready for hearty doses of San Miguel Beer and loads of fun in Picnic Grove, Tagaytay on May 11.

Mark your calendars on May 15 for the Santa Cruzan in Dumaguete.

Another exhilarating weekend awaits beer, music and fun lovers as the "Sarap to Sundown" banner flies high over Duka Bay in Cagayan De Oro and in Matabungkay Beach in Batangas, both on May 18.

SMB joins the festivities in "Viva Vigan" on May 19.

Back to the metro, there's an SMB summer party at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City on May 24.

Log on to smbsaraptosundown.pinoycentral.com for more updates.

Lani . . .

From page A29

their pop-rock and dance numbers, but while some of us would sit down in between the numbers, Juan Miguel and Marissa kept on performing tirelessly.

During Rage's second set, the group gave the audience an overdose of '80s music—"Flash Dance," "Telephone," "Iron Eagle," "Jump," "True," "Gold," "Hit Me With Your Best Shot," "We Built This City," "I Love Rock and Roll."

With the full-house crowd that troops to Dish every Saturday night, Rage has undeniably gathered again their loyal following and conquered the music scene anew.

If someone tells me Rage is old, I'll be the first one to retort and say, "Just watch them."

Catch Rage tomorrow night at Dish at the 3rd Level of Rockwell's Power Plant mall. The popular resto-bar and entertainment lounge is owned by **EJ Litton, Philip Cu-Unjieng** and **Rikki Dee**.

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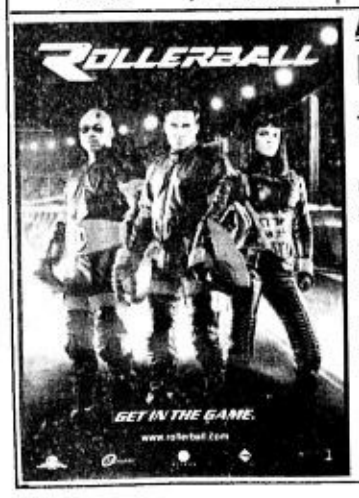

Bakbakan na!
Hot movie on new 'bloodsport' from the director of 'Die Hard'

High-octane action director John McTiernan (DIE HARD) presents a hot new movie packed with head-slamming action, breakneck speed and visceral thrills, in Columbia Pictures' ROLLERBALL.

In 2005, a violent game is the world's #1 phenomenon. Watched by the entire world, Rollerball is an extreme blood sport played with motorbikes, skates, a figure 8 track, a steel ball -- and no rules.

But the world's most dangerous game is about to become deadly. When serious on-court accidents bring higher viewer ratings, the players soon find themselves playing for their lives!

Stars Chris Klein of AMERICAN PIE, LL Cool J, and the incredibly sexy Rebecca Romijn Stamos.

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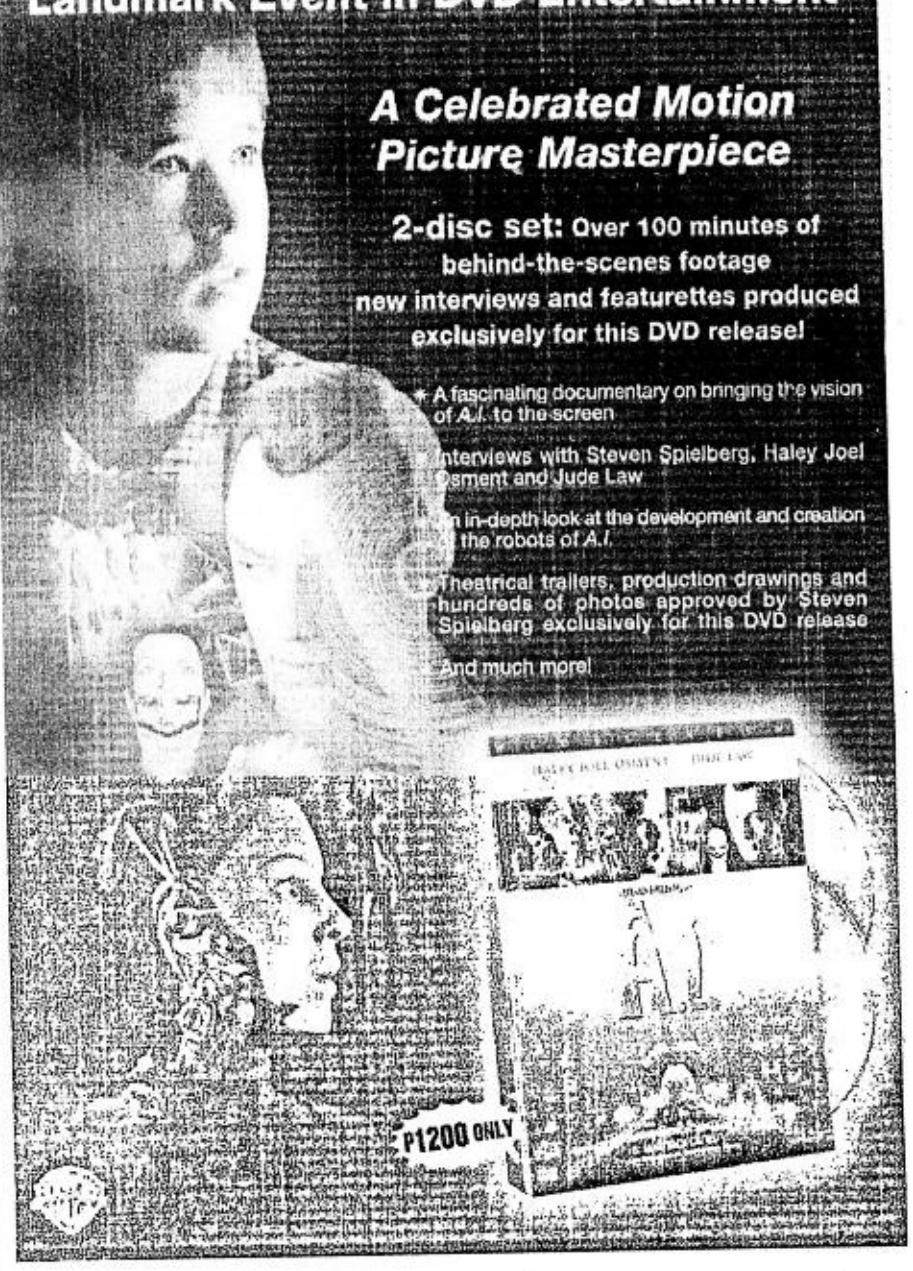

Go for the Ultimate Spin!
OPENS MAY 3
in the philippines & the U.S.A.
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Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

HOW TO JOIN

1. The contest is open to all kids 5 to12 years of age.
2. Entries must follow the theme "Spiderman Fighting Crime in Manila."
3. Participants may use any medium (pencil, pen, crayon, watercolor, oils,etc.).
4. Submit entries on a 1/4 size illustration board. (Write your name, address, phone number, age, e-mail address, and a brief description of the artwork at the back of each entry.)
5. Submit entries between April 24-30, 2002; 8 am to 5 pm at the Ayala Cinemas office located at the 5th Level Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati,at 752-7872 (look for Bunny Lazatin) or at the Alabang Town Center Cinema Ticket Booth at 850-8931 (look for Kenneth Laudit).
6. Criteria for Judging:
   a. Concept 40%
   The concept should characterize originality of ideas. It should be unique, fresh and distinctive.
   b. Creativity 40%
   The artwork demonstrates crafty strokes, synchronized colors, and a combination of elements that complete a masterpiece.
   c. Impact 20%
   Pertains to how well the artwork engages the viewer and its overall appeal to the emotions and to one's artistic senses/tastes.
   Total 100%
7. Entries shall be classified into 2 categories, based on the ages of the participants. These are:
   a. Junior Category : 5 to 8 years old
   b. Advanced Category : 9 to 12 years old
8. **There will be two winners for each category:**
   a. First Place
   b. Runner-up
   Non-winning entries that are put on display will each receive a consolation prize.
9. Only 1 entry is allowed per contestant.
10. All entries must be done by the participant. If proven otherwise, the entry will be disqualified and any prize won will be awarded to the next winning entry.
11. The top 10 entries from each category shall be displayed in the cinema lobby from May 4 to May 11, 2002.
12. All entries shall be considered property of Ayala Cinemas.
13. Winners will be notified through registered mail, e-mail and telephone.
14. Get a chance to win Spiderman Premiums, Gift Certificates and Caltex Premium Items. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days upon notification. They must present proof of identity (ID with Photo, Birth Certificate, etc).

Vortex

AYALA CINEMAS

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SPIDERMAN OPENS ON MAY 3 AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

Philips presents 'The Scorpion King,' with special previews at Glorietta

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics and Ayala Cinemas present the hottest movie to hit the big screen this summer.

"The Scorpion King" stars World Wrestling Federation (WWF) sensation The Rock in the lead.

The movie is a spin-off from the two "Mummy" films with Brendan Fraser, and is based on the character first introduced in "The Mummy Returns."

Inspired by the legendary Egyptian warrior, "Scorpion King" is set 5,000 years ago in the city of Gomorrah, where an evil ruler is set to destroy all the nomadic tribes in the desert. Knowing that their enemy relies on the visions of a sorcerer, they hire the skilled assassin Mathayus (The Rock) to eliminate the visionary, who turns out to be a beautiful woman (Kelly Hu).

Mathayus decides to take the beautiful visionary deep into desert badlands. And as the enemy tries to rescue her, Mathayus must find the strength to lead his band of allies back to Gomorrah for a final confrontation.

Apart from enjoying this exciting film, moviegoers can catch a preview of the movie at the special booth located outside Glorietta 4 Cinemas featuring the Philips Projection TV.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ROLLERBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEVIL'S MASK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I AM SAM
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HALIK SA LUPA / SUGAR AND SPICE
ODEON	SCORPION KING
ODEON-2	ITLOG
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	SCORPION KING

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SCORPION KING
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	PISTOLERO

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	E.T.
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-4	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-5	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-6	I AM SAM

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15	SCORPION KING- P 13 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	RETURN TO NEVERLAND - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
ROLLERBALL - R 18 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	SHOWTIME - P 13 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	I AM SAM - GP 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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CINEMA 2 I AM SAM 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40 G
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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	4 SNOW DOGS	1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 SCORPION KING
2 I AM SAM	2 SCORPION KING	5 ROLLER BALL	2 SCORPION KING	2 I AM SAM
3 ROLLER BALL	3 SCORPION KING 12:00 nn/ 2:00 pm/ 4:00/ 6:00/ 8:00/ 10:00/ 12:00 mn GUARANTEED SEATS	6 I AM SAM	3 I AM SAM	3 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 SCORPION KING		7 SHOWTIME	4 LANI ON SATGE APRIL 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 SCORPION KING
				5 ROLLER BALL

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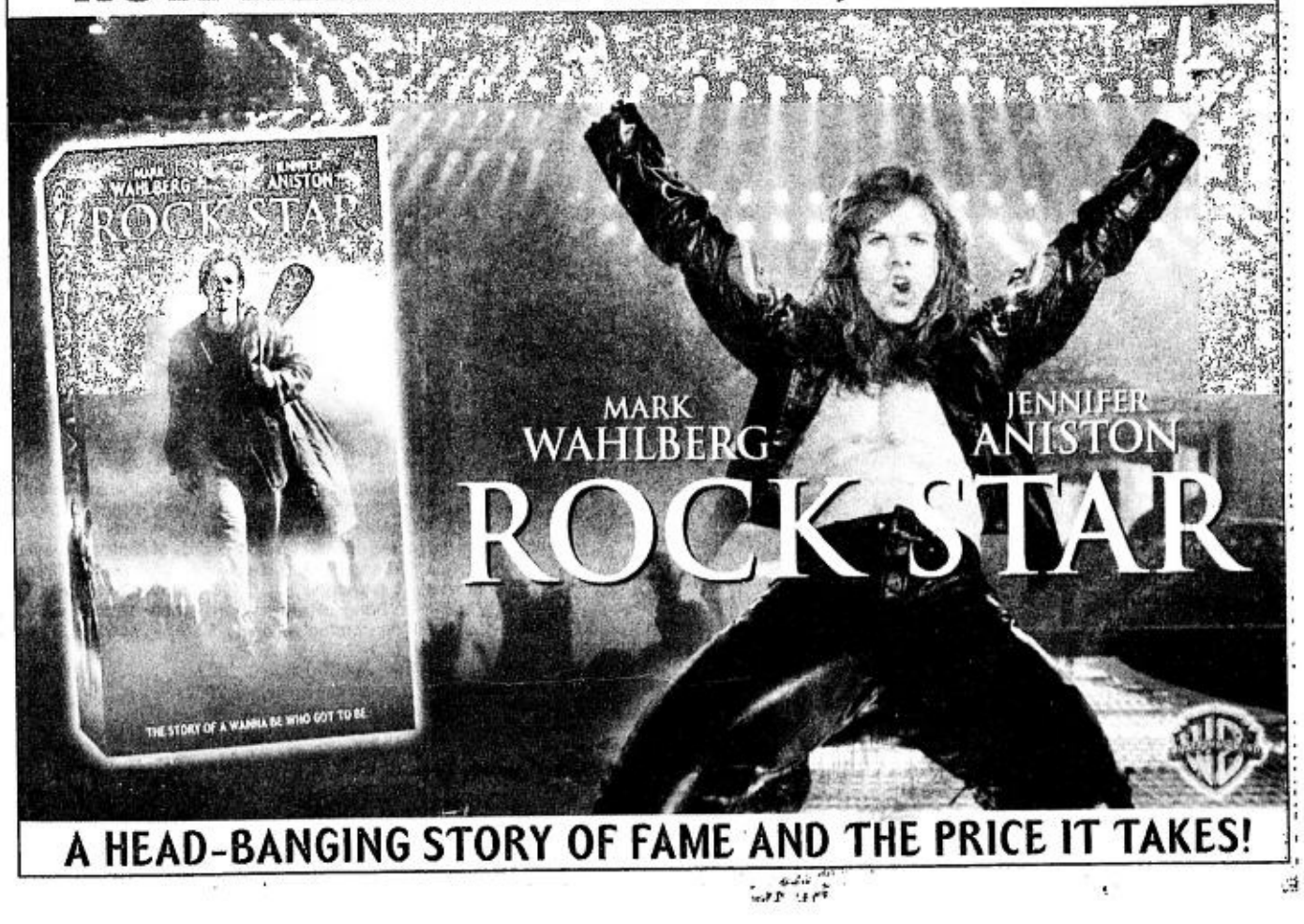


A HEAD-BANGING STORY OF FAME AND THE PRICE IT TAKES!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Making mistakes, learning from them and keeping relationships happy

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I AM now reading "Hot Relationships: How To Know What You Want, Get What You Want and Keep It Red Hot!" by **Tracey Cox**. I got it a week ago at Page One in Power Plant.

I'm now on Chapter 4, which is titled "Keeping Each Other Happy." The sub-heading states, "Want your love's dentures soaking next to yours when you're 80? The essential ingredients in the recipe for life-long love."

The chapter ends with "Seven Signs You're Going to Make It."

Allow me to share with you those seven signs and I'll leave the interpretation to you.

We can all relate to these examples. In my case, I got a clearer picture of why I've failed in the past. Most often, we torture ourselves and just concentrate on our differences.

These examples celebrate recognizing what can actually keep us together.

- After arguments you feel closer.
- Jealousy isn't a problem.
- If in doubt, you'll take it as a compliment.
- You think first, react later.
- You don't change to suit each other, you work with each other.
- You know how to say goodbye.
- You both feel you're getting a fair deal from the relationship.

My female writers and I have been obsessing over this book and we've been agreeing with so many of the author's assertions. We've also been debating and wondering whether what she has to say now makes sense for us because we've all grown up and are willing to invest much more into making our individual relationships work.

The question we were trying to answer in our discussion was, "Would our relationships that didn't work in the past have lasted and progressed if we knew then what we know now? Are lessons sometimes learned a little too late, that they don't matter anymore? Or will we eventually reap the benefits?"

We unanimously concluded that we needed to make those mistakes and pay the price for us to reach where we are now. We probably would still like the men we did in the past had we just met them now, because the truth is we can't change what we are fundamentally attracted to. It may be a witty mind, a nurturing tendency or even a strong-willed, I'm-in-charge type of personality.

We also all have general physical types that are, more often than not, what we base our first impression and initial attraction on.

What does change as we mature is our willingness and ability to cope, hang on, understand and accept. We also learn to view and value happiness in terms of giving and receiving.

But what constitutes happiness or, more to the point, balance in a relationship?

For those who gave it their all and felt that they were handed the short end of the stick, they're less likely to give their 100 percent in a future relationship. These are the women who promise themselves to leave "something" for themselves.

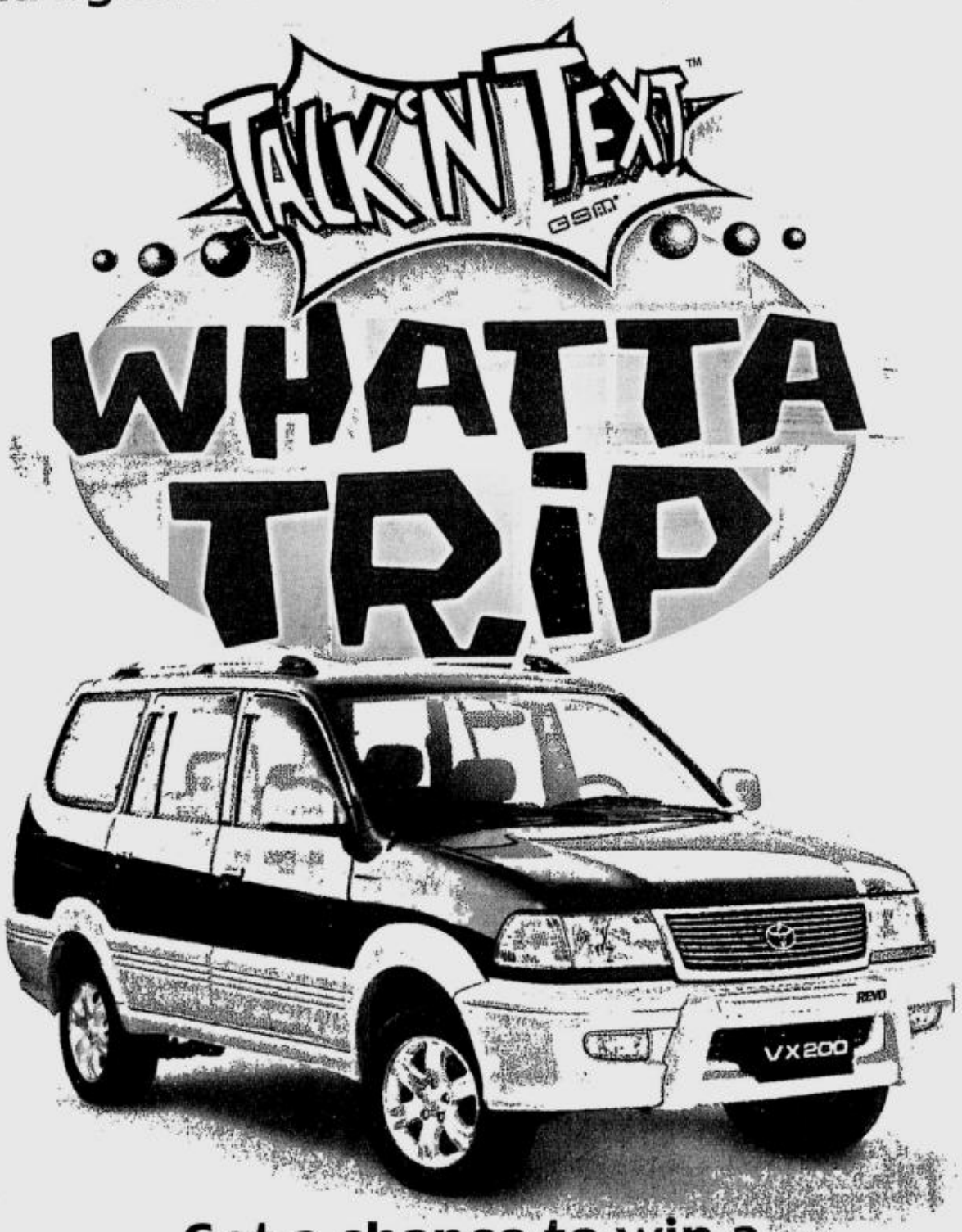
We come up with principles or revise existing ones from different vantage points, depending on the course we've traveled.

Those who feel that in the past they didn't give enough, those who chose to walk away and end things on their terms and those who've carried the guilt of breaking another's heart will be willing to make more concessions to make sure their fresh attempt at loving now has a fair shake.

This realization calls to mind the saying, "What's the point in making a mistake if you haven't learned from it?"

A mistake is painful regardless of how you try to sugarcoat it. It would depend on the kind of mistake you committed to determine what lesson you've learned, and it depends on the amount of pain you've endured or inflicted to determine how well you've learned your lessons.

Bili na ng SIM or load na ng cellphone to join



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*Weekly draw is from April 9 - July 2, 2002.
*Grand draw is on July 9, 2002.

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May 30 deadline for Manila film festival entries

By Jerome Aning

THE PRODUCERS of the six official film entries to this year's Manila Film Festival yesterday signed a contract with City Hall requiring them to submit the final prints of their movies by May 30.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also awarded the movies' scriptwriters P100,000 each as part of the film festival's incentives.

The recipients were Humilde "Meek" Roxas for Maverick Films' "Diskarte," Jun Lana for Regal Film's "Sweethearts," Melizza del Rosario for "Magkapatid" by Viva Films;

Jon Red for World Arts Cinema's "Utang ni Tatang," Dennis Evangelista for FLT Film's "Mama San" and Mary Jane Calaje and Juan Maria Mendoza for "Super B Saves the Day" by Neo Films.

All six movies are now being filmed. Some of them are already in the finishing stages and scheduled for post-production work.

The movie producers who signed the contract at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas were Vic del Rosario of Viva, Eric Cuatico of Maverick, Lily Monteverde of Regal, Rose Flaminiano of FLT, Antonio Magtoto of Neo and Jojo Galang of World Arts Cinema.

This year's Manila film Festival will take place from June 15 to 25, with a series of events to be held all over the city. It will also be part of the weeklong celebration of the Araw ng Maynila, which culminates on June 24.

Thanking the producers and scriptwriters for their efforts, Atienza expressed confidence that this year's film festival would be a huge success.

Arkdia spices up weekend nights

ARKDIA Entertainment Venue brings the ultimate in interactive entertainment with the elbreak, which takes the place of the usual boring minutes in between band sets.

Raffle draws and exciting games on and off stage allow the audience to enjoy their stay and keep coming back nightly.

Tonight, elbreak will be presented with Mix Vodka/Raw Spirit. The ready-to-drink beverage will be the drink of the night available at promo prices. Buy a bottle of any flavor and get one free. Buy two bottles and get two bottles plus Mix Vodka/Raw Spirit premium items for free.

For the adventurous drinker, there's the Mix Vodka/Raw Spirit drinking contest.

For inquiries or reservations, call 400-9974 or visit Arkdia at 542-544 Remedios st., Malate, Manila.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ✪ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Lopez firm sets IPO in Singapore bourse

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. is set to spin off all its offshore businesses worth about P1 billion into a new holding company that will debut on the Singapore Stock Exchange within the next 12 to 18 months, company chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III announced yesterday.

In a briefing after the company's annual stockholders' meeting, Lopez said the new unit, ABS-CBN Global Holdings Inc., would be incorporated by July this year. Up to 40 percent of its total equity would be sold through the forthcoming initial public offering (IPO). CLSA Ltd., a unit of French banking giant Credit Lyonnais, has been mandated as a financial adviser for the IPO.

The bid to raise fresh funds for its global expansion is part of an overall strategy to capture more opportunities from a wider market, specially in view of shrinking domestic airtime revenue. Yesterday, the company disclosed that its net income for the first quarter dropped by 99 percent, although it still ended with a marginal profit of P3.82 million from a year ago.

"But I don't think we'll have a net loss (for full year 2002)," Lopez said. The company actually incurred a net loss of P40 million during the first two months of the year but managed to shore up its three-month earnings due to improved performance for the month of March.

"If the economy improves as we expect it to do toward the third quarter then we'll be able to register a positive gain in terms of net income, but what that number will be we don't know yet," he said. "The first quarter of the year is traditionally weak."

Lopez noted that the 20-25 percent decline in advertising minutes in the first quarter from a year ago showed that advertisers were still cutting back on expenditures, likewise prompting ABS-CBN to significantly reduce its capital expenditures this year to P1 billion from the P2.5 billion spent last year.

Despite its belt-tightening, however, ABS-CBN will pursue its global expansion, albeit on a slower basis, using proceeds from the planned IPO of ABS-CBN Global Holdings. For instance, the plan to acquire stakes in foreign broadcasting firm Indonsiar was shelved in favor of a simpler tie-up to market domestic programs like soap operas.

"We feel that we can attract funds outside the Philippines for business ventures which are primarily situated abroad. Our soap opera 'Pangako sa Iyo' is now in Malaysia and we're looking at putting it into one of the Indonesian TV stations," Lopez said.

"The (program) is basically trying to monetize our ventures in the international market through an IPO in an international bourse. There is no new money involved in (ABS-CBN) Global Holdings since we're just putting the existing international businesses," he said.

The offshore businesses—which include program subscriptions in North America, Middle East, Europe and other interests

LOPEZ/ B3

HK tycoon, Sy launch venture

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONG KONG billionaire Li Ka-shing and Philippine tycoon Henry Sy are exploring more alliances in other retail ventures in the Philippines following the launching of their initial partnership--the $250 million drug and personal care chain Watsons Your Personal Store.

Li's Hutchison Whampoa group was keen on going into supermarket (ParknShop), consumer electronics retailing (Fortress appliance store), and airport retail shops (Watsons) in the Philippines, A.S. Watson group managing director Ian Wade said.

Wade said Hutchison officials were currently negotiating with the SM group on a possible tie-up in these areas, especially supermarket and appliance store. But SM vice president for real estate Henry Sy Jr. said Hutchison's was still under evaluation by his family. "We might come up with a decision before the end of this year."

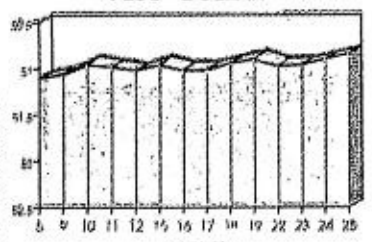
The SM group currently owns the SM Super Sale Club supermarket and SM Appliance

HK/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.835 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 25, 2002

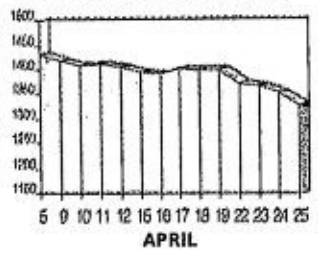
¥129.06 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 25, 2002

GOLD: $304.40/304.90

per ounce Hong Kong, April 25, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 1.9%

SHARE prices closed 1.9 percent lower yesterday due to poor corporate results and security fears ahead of the first anniversary of the bloody May 1 riots, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 26.32 points to 1,328.50.

"Investors are wary that something like (the riots last year) would happen and derail efforts to turn the economy around," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

Followers of detained ex-President Joseph Estrada, who staged the violent rally at the presidential palace gates, plan to stage another protest on May 1 this year.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities, said a drop in first-quarter profits of major issues such as broadcasting network ABS-CBN and food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. dampened investor interest.

"ABS-CBN's net profit was 99 percent down, and this is the kind of thing that is very surprising."

Volume turnover fell to 218 million shares worth P748 million from 357.6 million shares worth P913.8 million Wednesday. *AFP*

BOP surplus hits $806M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY posted a balance of payment surplus of $806 million in January, a reversal of the $597 million in deficit in the same month last year, due largely to improving trade and investment figures, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed.

The first-month BOP level supports the BSP's plan to revise this year's BOP target to a surplus of $200 million from the projected deficit of $200 million.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said it was still premature to revise the external payments target at this point even as he agreed that a slight surplus in external payments this year was realistic.

"We have not changed the target yet. The intention now is to just surpass the numbers based on the assumptions we made last year," he said.

In 2001, the deficit in external payments reached only $192 million against a worst-case scenario of $2.3 billion and a revised estimate of $1.1 billion.

Buenaventura attributed the positive BOP figure to higher export receipts that drove the current account surplus up by 66 percent to $900 million in January from a surplus of $543 million the previous year.

The deficit in capital and financial account was down by 72 percent to $265 million from $948 million in January 2001.

An indicator of the investors' confidence in the Philippines and its ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items—current account (movement in trade) and financial account (the flow of investment and borrowings).

A BOP surplus means that there were more funds that came into the country than those that came out as a result of trading, investments and borrowings.

The parallel movement in exports and imports helped preserve the current account surplus position. Exports of goods went down by 10 percent while imports shed 21 percent.

The marked improvement in the capital and financial account was caused by a reversal in the investing community's sentiment about the Philippines, particularly among foreign portfolio investors who started putting back their money in small amounts in the country's stock and fixed income markets.

Portfolio investments as of January posted a surplus of $895 million while foreign direct investments rose by 160 percent to $303 million from $117 million the previous year.

The other investment component of the financial account posted a deficit of $1.462 billion, up by 35 percent from $1.083 billion in January 2001.

Buenaventura said the assumption used in the original BOP deficit forecast was a flat growth in exports this year on expectations that the US economy would not rebound until the second half of 2002.

Already, the US economy has started to show signs of a tentative recovery during the first quarter. This prompted the National Economic and Development Authority to consider adjusting the country's exports growth target from zero to a range of one to 1.5 percent.

The 15-percent contraction in last year's exports was a major factor in the setting of the huge BOP deficit forecast for this year.

The "worst case" deficit forecast of $2.3 billion was made after the Sept. 11 tragedy, Buenaventura said.

The number was cut by almost half to $1.1 billion in November when it was evident that the Philippine economy was not as affected by the global slowdown that followed the attacks on the United States as the other countries.

"After Sept. 11, we were worried if we can access funds easily which is why we projected a huge deficit. Toward the end of the year, the Philippines together with other emerging markets started to de-couple themselves from Argentina and this allowed us to access relatively cheap funds to finance the BOP," said Buenaventura. ***With a report from Reuters***

Court approves rehab of Shemberg Biotech

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Regional Trial Court of Cebu has approved the rehabilitation of Shemberg Biotech Corporation (SBC).

In a decision dated April 22, 2002, RTC Branch 11 Judge Isaias Dicdican ordered that 50 percent of the loans be converted into convertible zero-coupon bonds.

Dicdican also directed banks to restructure the remaining debts to 12-year loans, including a two-year grace period.

Last year, the company admitted that its total debt exposure was about P989 million.

Of the amount, the company owes P669.972 million to its multilateral lenders and P319.621 million to commercial banks.

The company experienced difficulties in paying its loans, especially its foreign-denominated loans due to the Asian currency crisis in 1997.

Its obligations to the multilateral lenders ballooned from only P484.591 million to over P600 million when the peso depreciated from P26 to a dollar to over P50 at one point.

Because of the currency crisis and other factors, the company found it difficult to pay interest on the loans.

Judge Dicdican said the accrued interests on both secured and unsecured loans would have to be capitalized and added to the principal obligations, to represent the total 'debt of Shemberg Biotech.

But the official amount of Biotech's total obligations has yet to be determined by the court-appointed receiver, Pio Go.

He also required the multilateral lenders to express their support for the rehabilitation plan to Colgate Palmolive, Biotech's top client.

The multilateral lenders include Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) and the Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesselchaft mbH (DEG).

A. S. Watson, one of Asia's largest retail groups, yesterday announced a joint venture with the SM Group of Companies. Shown displaying a sample of Watson products to the press are (from left): Dennis Casey, managing director of Watsons Philippines; Ian F. Wade, Group Managing Director of A.S. Watson and Henry Sy Jr. of the SM Group of Companies.

RP not keen on proposal to allow tax-free imports from 4 nations

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is cool to an initiative by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to give duty-free status to products from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar due to concerns that the scheme could be used as a backdoor to slip non-Asean goods in the region.

A government source said that of Asean's major economies (excluding Singapore and Brunei), only the Philippines has not endorsed the Asean Integration System of Preferences (AISP).

Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have already pledged their support to give duty-free status to products from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.

The source said the Philippine Bureau of Customs was worried about Asean's inability to validate the origin of products traded within the region.

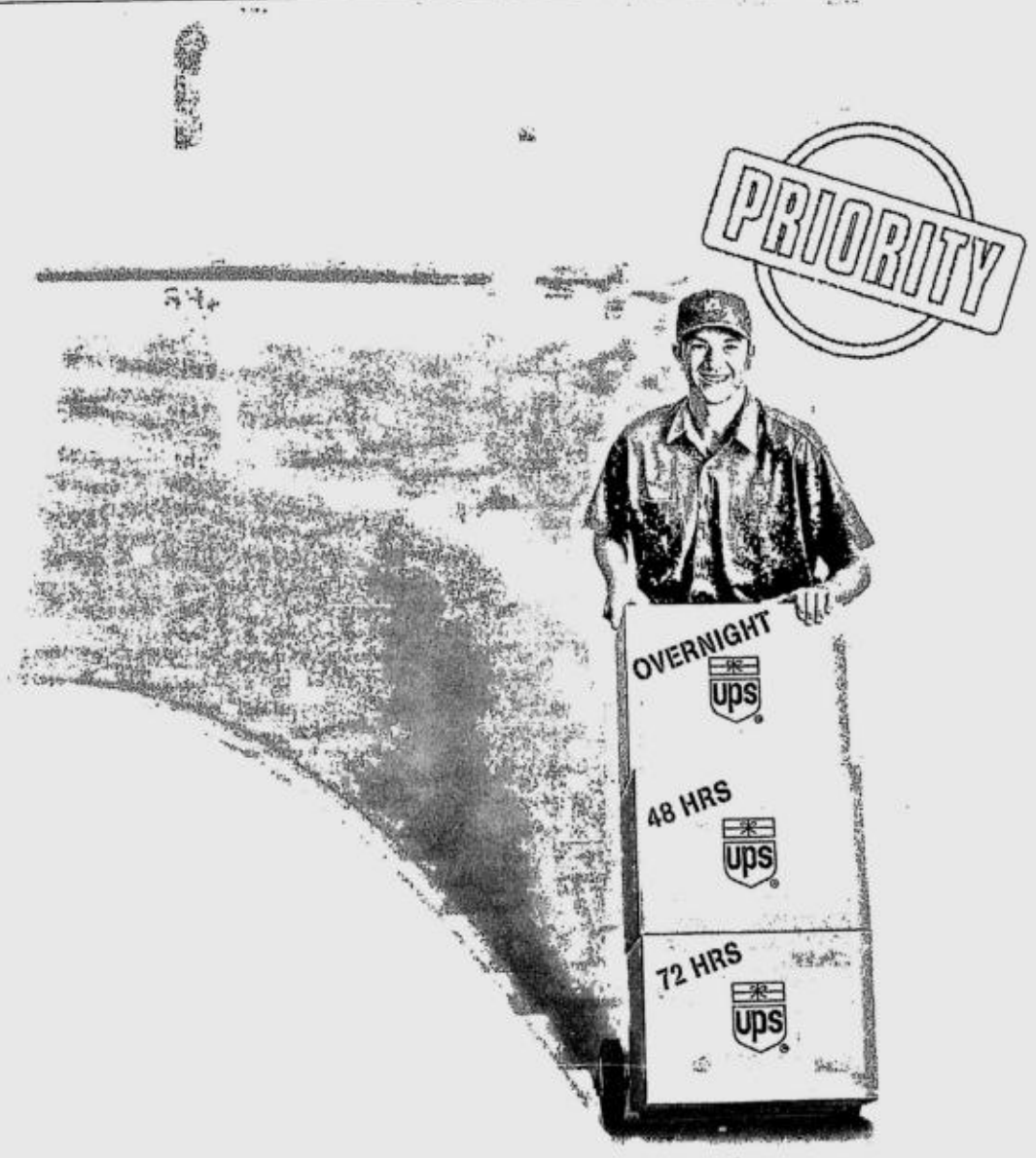
At present, the Philippines depends on the declaration by importers on the origin of their goods.

The source said that without adequate rules of origin, unscrupulous traders might use Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar to avail themselves of the duty-free status for their non-Asean goods.

The AISP was taken up during the Asean Senior Economic Officers Meeting last year. The AISP was meant to hasten the establishment of an integrated Asean and bridge the development gap between countries in the region.

The AISP was patterned after the US GSP, which grants preferred access to imports from allies such as the Philippines.

The AISP would coincide with the Asean Free Trade Area wherein all goods traded in the region would be levied duties no more than 5 percent starting next year.



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WG minus A

THE UNEASY alliance among the three leading shipping families of Cebu has erupted in a boardroom struggle, threatening to break up and sink their listed WG&A.

According to the grapevine, the replacement of Bob Gothong, who is allied to WG&A president/CEO Endika Aboitiz, as chair of the powerful executive committee by elder brother Ben was meant to clip the powers of Aboitiz.

The Gothong switch was said to have been engineered by the Gothong family in alliance with WG&A chair Victor Chiongbian preparatory to the ousting of Aboitiz, which could come as early as in next month's board meeting.

The Chiongbians of William Lines control about 36 percent of WG&A. And, with the Gothongs' 19 percent switching their allegiance to them, the two Chinoy families have the majority muscle to force a showdown. The Aboitizes control about 36 percent of WG&A, like the Chiongbians. The rest of the minority shares are floating in the stock market.

It is not immediately clear what precipitated the boardroom row. Despite their successful passenger venture in WG&A, the three families still kept their respective but competing marine cargo hauling/logistics businesses.

The Aboitizes, for example, have long been the favored shippers of the Lucio Tan group of companies, while the Chiongbians seem to have a lock on the Nestle business. The Gothongs have been concentrating on serving the Binondo traders, their traditional market.

On the corporate front, the Aboitizes, Castilaloys who trace their roots from the rebellious Basque province of Spain, have brought Western-style management practices in WG&A that is a culture apart from the family-style management orientation of the Gothongs.

What complicated the cultural clash is that the three families brought with them their respective executives into WG&A who, unfortunately, retained their loyalties to their old masters rather than to the new venture.

The additional executive baggage, according to the grapevine, has also caused WG&A to become, like their favorite superstar endorser, quite top heavy in a capital-intensive industry with slim margins.

With too many cooks in the boardroom, running WG&A's day-to-day affairs has, alas, become quite like Sharon Cuneta's battle with weight.

Earnest but not-too-young

THE FATE of Jose Araullo, the accountant-lawyer partner of Punongbayan and Araullo/Ernst & Young, was not mentioned in the SGV press release announcing SGV's acquisition of P and A and SGV's ditching its longtime partner Arthur Andersen in favor of P and A foreign partner Ernst & Young.

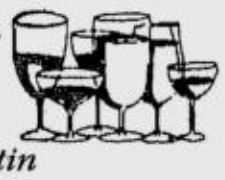
According to the grapevine, Araullo, now nearing retirement age, has been extended a golden parachute by Ernst & Young to agree to the acquisition. Being the only name partner that came from the client side rather than from any of the major local auditing firms and, therefore, having none of the professional/emotional/competitive baggage, Araullo was said to be relatively easy to convince.

To ease the fears of the P and A staff that they would be treated as second-class citizens, SGV has agreed to have P and A's Fred Damian head the combined human resources departments, in addition to naming Benjamin Punongbayan as co-chair during the transition period and Punongbayan heir apparent Gregorio Navarro as a senior partner and head of one of the five divisions.

SGV has 51 partners and 1,300 employees, as against P&A's 13 partners and 430 staff, according to a Bloomberg report.

What provided a cliffhanger to the SGV-P and A merger was that SGV was supposed to have sent word with former SGV partner Jaime Laya, the local partner of KMPG, that it was prepared to junk the P&A/Ernst & Young talks if Laya would agree to merging his firm with SGV.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

Laya did not return a phone call seeking comment on the report. The literary Laya was earlier quoted by Bloomberg's Francisco Alcuaz Jr. on the reported SGV-P&A/Ernst & Young merger as saying, "Goliath is growing another six inches."

Heard through the grapevine

THE CONCEPCIONS of RFM have apparently been bitten by the newspaper bug, expressing interest in acquiring lock, stock, and barrel a recently shuttered daily.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Lopez firm . . .

From page B1

held by existing ABS-CBN International Inc.—to be folded into the global unit were among the company's fastest growing revenue streams.

ABS-CBN chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado said the P1 billion (based on book value) worth of international businesses were growing by an average of 30-40 percent during the last three years, with the contribution to total revenues surging to 12 percent compared to a 5-percent share four years ago. With the development of the direct-to-home satellite technology, he said the company was in a position to bring its programs faster to other parts of the globe, compared to previous years when growth was limited due to reliance on cable television infrastructure.

UGC-Tibayan Group's Starbank registers record income

By: Marjorie Teresa R. Perez

Shortly after observing its 45th glorious anniversary, the **Starbank** (Rural Bank of San Pablo City, Inc.) scored another milestone with total assets reaching P63.2 million. Its networth registered P12.1 million, and total income upped to P28.1 million. Income tax paid amounted to P4.2 million, a record breaking figure for a rural bank.

Starbank (Rural Bank of San Pablo City, Inc.) is a member of the UGC-Tibayan Group with Jesus V. Tibayan as Conglomerate Chairman.

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email; is_joaquin@maxima.com.ph

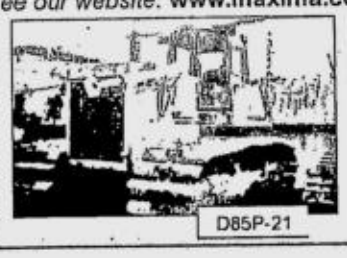
QUALITY KOMATSU USED EQUIPMENT AT AUCTION PRICE

MORE THAN 50 UNITS AVAILABLE. See our website: www.maxima.com.ph for other models

Light Towers

FD50-6 w/ fork shift

PW100-3A


D85P-21

Komatsu 530

SMC says profit down 33.5%, names key committee heads

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed San Miguel Corp. yesterday announced that its net income in the first quarter fell 33.5 percent to P1.11 billion from P1.67 billion as a result of the short-term "dilutive impact" of its acquisitions.

The food and beverage giant also announced that its board also approved the appointment of three non-executive directors in SMC's key committees in line with the company's commitment to good corporate governance, transparency, full management accountability and protecting the interest of minority shareholders.

The three were Social Security System president and chief executive officer Corazon dela Paz who was appointed chair of the audit committee; former chair and chief executive of Nestlé Philippines Juan Santos, who was elected chair of the executive compensation committee; and lawyer Estélito Mendoza, who was named chair of the nominations committee.

SMC chair and chief executive Eduardo Cojunagco Jr. will continue to head the executive committee.

Last month, SMC announced that its vice chair Ramon Ang would replace Francisco Eizmendi who was retiring as president of SMC.

On the first-quarter income, SMC said that without the acquisitions, consolidated net income would have been 13 percent better than last year's.

SMC reacquired the domestic Coca-Cola operations last year by swapping its 21-percent stake in Coca-Cola Amatil of Australia for 65 percent of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Also acquired last year were Cosmos Bottling Corp., now in the process of being integrated under CCBPI, and Pure Foods Corp.

"The transformation programs being implemented in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. are expected to bring positive results within the year," SMC said.

The conglomerate also disclosed that it registered a 35-percent gain in consolidated revenue for the first quarter of 2002 to P30.17 billion from P22.3 billion in the same period last year.

Sales revenue grew by 41 percent in beverage, 86 percent in food and 3 percent in packaging following the consolidation of most of the newly acquired businesses.

Earnings before income taxes, depreciation and amortization, on the other hand, went up by 13 percent to P4.44 billion from P3.92 billion during the three-month period.

SMC also reported that interest expenses declined by 29 percent because the company prepaid some loans, which led to a 3-percent decrease in net financing charges.

Interest income, however, was lower as placements went down due to acquisitions.

This was slightly offset later in the quarter by the entry of P28 billion from Kirin, which acquired a 15-percent stake in SMC.

The SMC board of directors also approved two payments of cash dividends for end-May and June 25 this year at P0.35 per share and P0.30 per share, respectively. These reflected dividends due to stockholders in the fourth quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002.

IPO PERIOD: MAY 6-10

Banco de Oro to list shares on May 21

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the initial public offering of retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank worth P1.58 billion to P2.1 billion, the biggest equity-raising in the local bourse in the last two years.

A PSE circular released yesterday said BDO would conduct the IPO—equivalent to 10 percent of its total equity—from May 6 to 10 and then list its shares on the main board of the PSE on May 21. BPI Capital Corp. is the underwriter.

The bank's IPO will also mark the second venture of the SM group for this year alone. Newly listed Highlands Prime Inc. is likewise majority controlled by the Sy family, alongside two other listed companies: retail giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. and property developer SM Development Corp.

BDO will be the fourth local company to list on the PSE this year, after Citystate Savings Bank, Salcon Power Corp. and Highlands Prime.

The PSE circular said the approved IPO would be a combination of primary and secondary offering equivalent to 32.69 million and 56.35 million shares, respectively, out of a total of 952.7 million post-IPO outstanding common shares.

The shares will be offered to the public at a price of P17.80 to P23.80 each.

The primary offering will yield P443 million to P591 million in net proceeds, which will be used by BDO "initially to increase trading accounts securities and subsequently to support the bank's lending and expansion activities."

The selling shareholder for the secondary offering will be BDO Capital and Investment Corp., which expects to raise P732 million to P977 million net of IPO expenses.

BDO expects to double its net income this year to P979 million from a year ago on gains from its merger with Dao Heng Bank and the fresh funds from its IPO.

In its prospectus, the bank said net interest income would likely grow by 28 percent "mainly due to an anticipated improvement in net interest margins to be brought about by the recapitalization."

BDO started operating as a universal bank in 1996 after obtaining its upgraded license from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The banking law requires a universal bank to sell at least 10 percent of its shares through an IPO within three years after it has obtained such license as an expanded commercial bank.

As of last year, BDO was the 13th biggest bank in the country in terms of resources. The bank was acquired by the Sy family, which also has a stake in China Banking Corp., in 1976.

BSP Form No. NP11-TB
GL/SL System - 2000
(Formerly TB Form 4)

Deadline: 12 banking days from receipt of call. Published Statement with Publisher's Certificate - 20 banking days from receipt of call.
Submission: DTBNBFI

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
PsBank Bldg. Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Tindalo St., Makati City

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of March 22, 2002

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash Items	327,991,425.39
Due from Bangko Sentral	651,967,055.96
Due from Other Banks	357,464,235.49
Interbank Loans Receivable	265,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities (Net)	33,605,927.29
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	4,694,337,015.61
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	12,926,607,415.44
Equity Investments (Net)	1,200,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	648,308,933.84
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	1,611,712,683.94
Others	1,282,416,113.76
TOTAL ASSETS	22,810,811,006.92
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	471,005,336.14
Savings Deposits	15,040,473,893.92
Time Deposits	2,579,599,617.10
Special/Other Deposits	-
Due to Bangko Sentral	-
Due to Banks	168,484,991.33
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	-
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs	
BSP-Other Advances	
Interbank Borrowings	
Deposit Substitutes	
Others	-
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	31,764,556.61
Other Liabilities	587,671,848.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,879,000,243.89
MINORITY INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARY	
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**AMOUNT**
Capital Stock	1,795,015,200.00
Surplus	1,867,737,702.40
Surplus Reserves	269,057,860.63
Appraisal Increment Reserves	
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	3,931,810,763.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	22,810,811,006.92
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	3,498,974.07
Bills for Collection	
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	1,281,572,360.61
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	
Invested in:	
Government Securities	566,449,308.71
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	198,042,552.57
Loans and Discounts	-
Other Assets	517,080,499.33
Accountabilities:	
Trust & Other Fiduciary	255,350,210.24
Common Trust Funds	285,990.87
Investment/Fund Management	1,054,804,541.32
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	1,131,613.18
Other Contingent Accounts	45,775,168.73
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	1,330,846,503.41

Additional Information:

1. Deposits of
   a) Government 126,198,440.66
   b) Banks 517,007,723.15
   c) Trust Department
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   a) _____
   b) _____
   c) _____
   d) _____
3. a. Total Non-Performing Loans 1,373,392,706.79
   b. Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets 4,053,930,234.71
   c. General Loan Loss Reserve 129,118,761.94
   d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve 684,548,972.15
   e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances 1,835,917,934.69
   f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances -
   g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio 9.38%
   h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio 12.54%
   i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio -
   j. Return on Equity 6.17%

Note: a. Items 3.a. to j. - for Thrift Banks with at least P1 billion resources (Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999)
b. Items 3.a. to d - for Thrift Banks listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (Circular No. 157 dated March 19, 1998)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) S. S.

We, NOLI S. GOMEZ and PASCUAL M. GARCIA III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

NOLI S. GOMEZ
Vice-President

PASCUAL M. GARCIA III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this April 19, 2002 at City of Marao, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 16950147 issued at Taytay, Rizal on March 22, 2002 and No. 15847755 issued at Quezon City on January 22, 2002.

ATTY. JOSE FERNANDEZ DY
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 0993161 Mla. 1-14-02
IBP OR No. 630334 Mla. 1-14-02
City of Makati

Doc. No. 491
Book No. 99
Page No. LXXXIII
Series of 2002

Piltel posts positive earnings for 1st time

DEBT-LADEN Philippine cell phone firm Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) said yesterday that it posted positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) for the first time ever in the first quarter of 2002.

The firm, a unit of dominant telecom carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., also told stockholders at its annual meeting that it hoped to break even at the cash flow level for 2002.

"Our preliminary reports show that we did post a positive Ebitda in the first quarter," Piltel president Napoleon Nazareno said.

"Our goal is to be cash breakeven after servicing our financing costs for the year 2002."

He did not give the latest earnings figures, but told reporters it was the first time the firm had posted positive Ebitda for a quarter.

The firm posted a net loss of P21.7 billion last year, much of it related to costs from debt restructuring and asset write downs. Without extraordinary costs related to debt restructuring, the net loss was at P6.6 billion.

In 2000, the firm recorded a net loss of P5.2 billion.

The consensus 2002 earnings forecast in the Multex Global Estimates Directory is for a net loss of P4 billion with a loss per share of P2.10.

Last year, Piltel completed a major debt restructuring plan with its creditors, resulting in a reduction of its overall debt by approximately P20.5 billion.

Nazareno said the firm had a total of 1.5 million subscribers at the end of March this year with around 1.3 million of them using the firm's Talk 'N Text digital prepaid GSM service, which contributed nearly 70 percent of total cellular revenues.

By contrast, the firm's analog subscriber base continued to dwindle, falling 15 percent at end-March 2002 from a total of 145,680 users at the end of December.

Nazareno said marketing costs to acquire new digital service subscribers remained high at P2.7 billion in 2001.

"But we expect this level of expenditure to decrease beginning 2002 as our subscriber base continues to grow and we can begin to enjoy some economies of scale," he said.

Marketing expenses and rising depreciation costs were the main reason for the continued losses and Nazareno said the firm had undertaken a major write-down off its asset base in order to reduce costs.

Asked when Piltel would post positive net income, Nazareno gave no timetable, saying that it depended on the progress of its Talk 'N Text service, how the analogue service was phased out and the capability of the firm to make additional write downs. ***Reuters***

DISCLOSURES

PHILODRILL Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 22 to June 26 due to delays in finalizing the audited financial statements of its affiliate, **Penta Capital & Investment Corp.**

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.** were Vy Tonne So, Antonio Viray, Aniceto Sobrepeña, Alfredo Javellana, Arthur Ty, Henry Sun, Francis Sebastian, Gabriel Chua, Cielito Habito, Renato Valencia, Jesus Estanislao, James Go, Antonio Abacan Jr., Placido Mapa Jr. and George Ty.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **SM Development Corp.** were Henry Sy Sr., Rogelio Cabunag, Henry Sy Jr., Andres Gatmaitan, Octavio Espiritu and Ricardo Romulo. Also, the company declared P0.10 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 24 and shall be payable on or before June 24.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **La Tondeña Distillers Inc.** were Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Enrique Cojuangco, Ramon Ang, Arnaldo Africa, Carmelo Santiago, Carlos Palanca III, Douglas Lu Ym, Leo Alvez and David Loseff. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, April 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	9,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68	67	67	995,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	36.5	37	643,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	40.5	39	39	71,100
Philippine National Bank	56	56	52	52	16,400
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22	21.75	21.75	32,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	155,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1400	1400	1400	1400	810
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1090	1080	1090	25,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	31	31	34,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.53	0.56	0.53	0.56	1,640,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	635	625	630	21,660
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	2,400,000
Piltel	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	980,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	470	470	462.5	467.5	184,320
Ivantage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	21,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	41,600
Manila Electric Co. B	44	44	42	42.5	4,045,500
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	1,849,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	130,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.75	2.6	2.7	1,677,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	77,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	148,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	29	28	29	1,984,000
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.26	951,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45.5	46.5	44.5	46.5	61,900
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	56	53.5	55.5	461,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	4,946,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	2,076,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	1,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	60,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	180,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.57	0.59	12,570,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	260,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.24	0.24	440,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.7	6.2	6.3	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28	26.5	27	632,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,500,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	52,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.78	137,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.83	0.8	0.83	1,250,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	620,000
Music Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	140,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.0975	0.1	1,770,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	2,300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	34	34	31	31	1,172,600
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	660	685	660	685	1,050
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	12,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	6,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	14,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.1	6.7	6.8	8,912,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,600,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	29,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	17,164,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	17,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	270,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	6,380,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	6,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.041	0.043	19,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	610,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	210,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.17	0.17	610,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	260,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,954,700	125,029,050.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	145,114,530	485,178,065.00
PRO	37,562,000	147,083,970.00
Mining	23,926,000	1,045,850.00
OIL	10,420,000	267,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	218,977,230	758,604,335.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	547.70	DOWN 18.23
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,791.88	DOWN 31.71
PRO	607.04	DOWN 1.01
Mining	1,263.19	DOWN 10.17
OIL	1.49	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	746.86	DOWN 7.94
Composite	1,328.50	DOWN 26.32

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 107; NO. OF TRADES: 2,759

CURRENCIES

April 25, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119570	1.000000	50.9450
Japan	Yen	0.008639	0.007716	0.3931
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623153	1.449800	73.8601
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143557	0.128225	6.5324
Switzerland	Franc	0.681791	0.608976	31.0243
Canada	Dollar	0.714148	0.637877	32.4966
Singapore	Dollar	0.616504	0.550661	28.0534
Australia	Dollar	0.606157	0.541419	27.5826
Bahrain	Dinar	2.969840	2.652661	135.1398
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298552	0.266667	13.5854
Brunei	Dollar	0.613968	0.548396	27.9380
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000107	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.025874	0.023111	1.1774
UAE	Dirham	0.304819	0.272264	13.8705
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000771	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893200	45.5041
Brazil	Real	0.474998	0.424268	21.6143
Denmark	Kroner	0.134427	0.120070	6.1170
India	Rupee	0.022895	0.020450	1.0418
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294624	0.263158	13.4066
Mexico	New Peso	0.120656	0.107770	5.4903
New Zealand	Dollar	0.501015	0.447507	22.7982
Norway	Kroner	0.131199	0.117187	5.9701
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018706	0.016708	0.8512
South Africa	Rand	0.102497	0.091550	4.6640
Sweden	Kroner	0.108651	0.097047	4.9441
Syria	Pound	0.025444	0.022727	1.1578
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032255	0.028810	1.4677
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001338	0.001195	0.0609

HK tycoon . . .

From page B1

Center, both dominant players in their respective retail segments.

The SM group contributed 61 stores of Health and Beauty personal care chain and Family Drugstore as equity contribution for its venture with Hutchison, which shouldered the cost of re-branding these shops into the Watsons image. Wade said the stores would enable Watsons Philippines to achieve critical mass to build its market share.

Wade said Watsons Philippines would build 15 new stores this year and another 20 new stores by next year. Each store is expected to cost at least $800,000 each, including the cost of inventory and manpower.

Wade said Watsons Philippines was aiming to build at least 250 stores in the country. He stressed that this was a conservative target considering that the Philippines, with its 78 million people, could easily accommodate up to 3,000 drug stores.

Wade was bullish on Watson's prospects in the Philippines because of its strategy to provide a broader product range at transparent and affordable pricing. Watsons Philippines will have three store formats--a combined health and beauty stores, a drugstore, and a beauty/cosmetics section in department stores.

Wade cited the Philippine consumer market as an enormous potential. "We are happy with the retail trade liberalization of the Philippines and I do not understand why other foreign investors feel the law is unfair. Unlike them, we put our money where our mouth is." US retailers, specifically Wal-Mart, have dithered on investing in the Philippines because of the law's provision requiring them to buy at least 30 percent of their stock from local suppliers. "Only 10 percent of our products are imported and we are looking to bring some Philippine products in our stores in Asia, particularly those in sachet packs which are unique to this country," Wade said.

And we're having a party.

WAVE 89.1

Wave 89.1 would like to thank you for making us the Number One upscale station in Metro Manila. Join us as we celebrate our first birthday at Eastwood City Walk, Libis with Next Level and South Border on April 26, 2002 at 7:00pm. Admission is free!

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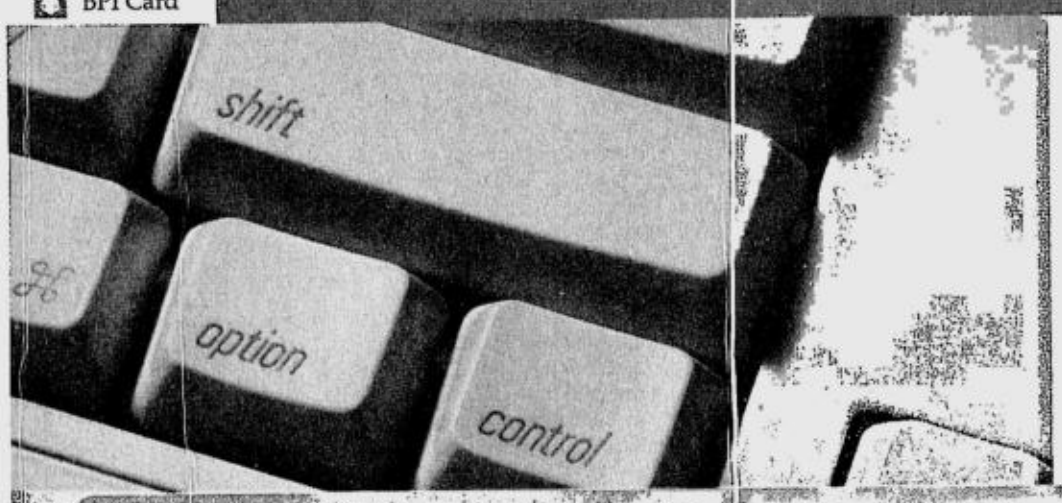

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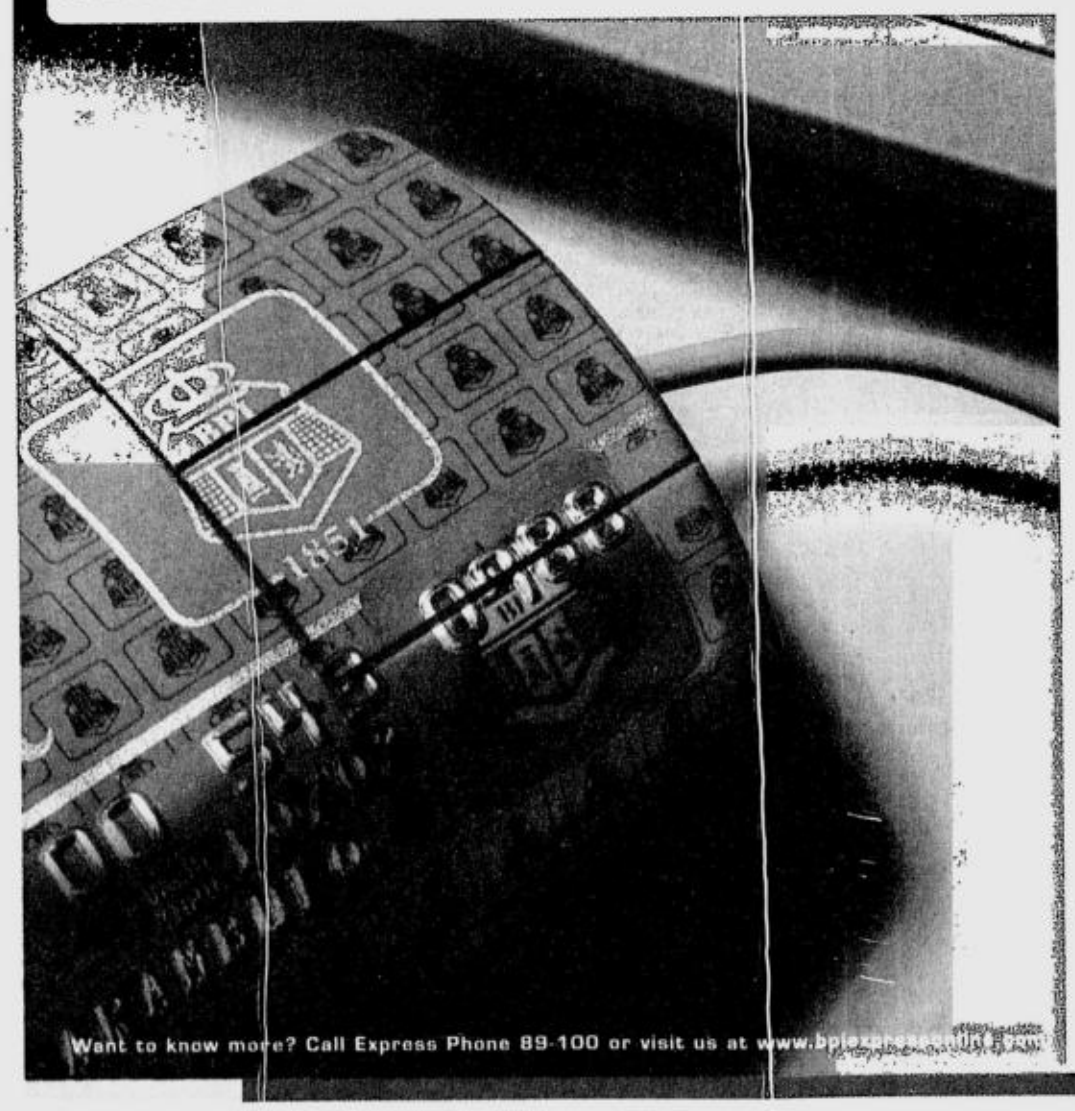

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- a duly accomplished TIP+ charge form which you may get from BPI Card's Customer Service Dept., 14/F BPI Card Center in Makati

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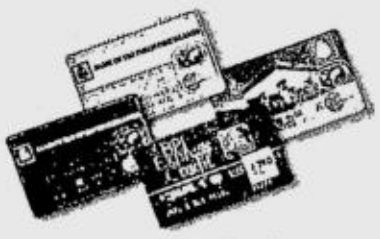

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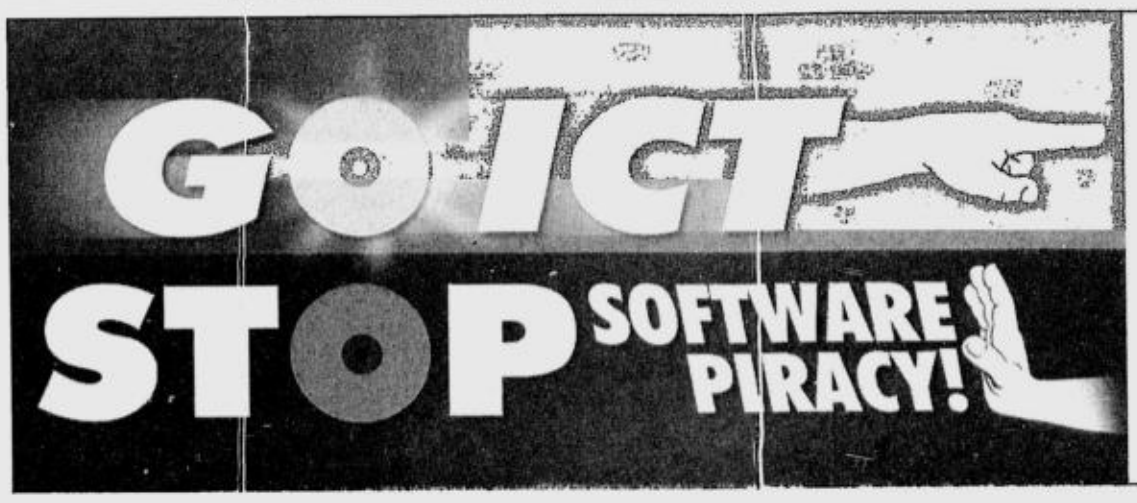

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Pure Foods sets aside P3B to increase output

PURE Foods Corp., the country's biggest food manufacturer following its integration with the food division of San Miguel Corp., is spending some P3 billion this year on expansion and modernization.

In a stockholders meeting yesterday, Pure Foods president Enrique Gomez Jr. said the company would use the money to boost its capacity to produce more processed meat and flour.

The company will be renamed San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc., he said.

Gomez said the company would also have to strengthen its operations "to be able to seize opportunities in the food service segment, which has been growing at an unprecedented growth rate, both locally and globally."

Pure Foods, formerly the food manufacturing subsidiary of Ayala Corp., was acquired by San Miguel last year for P7 billion.

Gomez said this year's expansion program would double the company's meat production capacity.

It currently produces about 140 tons a year.

The company's business scope is envisioned to cover a broad range of products consisting of processed and fresh meats, feeds and poultry, dairy products, flour, agriculture and food service.

Among the household brands under Pure Foods' portfolio are Tender Juicy Hotdog, Dari Crème, Star Margarine, Magnolia Chicken, Monterey Meats and Pure Foods Fiesta Ham. Its leading poultry brands are B-Meg and Pure Blend.

Gomez said Pure Foods would implement strategies founded on "innovative marketing and product development, commitment to food safety, stronger infrastructure, food service focus, and business synergies."

"With these strategies, the company will be able to fully capitalize on the greater growth opportunities that are expected to unfold as markets and economies continue to open up following the global trend toward liberalization," he said.

Gomez said the company sustained strong volume growth in most of its businesses in the first quarter, enabling it to increase its operating income by 11 percent from a year ago.

He said, however, that Pure Foods' bottom line weakened from the previous year, largely resulting from the softening of poultry prices since late 2001.

He said weak poultry prices would likely continue until the first few months of the year but expressed confidence that the company would achieve overall growth for the full year, alongside the expected rebound in volumes across various businesses.

ONE of Pure Foods' hog farms in Luzon. The company is set on doubling its meat producing capacity this year.

BSP reviews purchase of P19B worth of loans from Metrobank, subsidiary

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is reviewing the account classification and accounting treatment of a foreign investor's purchase of non-accruing loans from Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and a bank subsidiary for P18.7 billion worth of cash and notes.

This was disclosed by Metrobank, the country's largest bank, in notes to financial statements attached to its 2001 annual report.

Metrobank explained that the "Loans for Sale" account on its balance sheet as of end-2001 represented classified non-accruing loans to be sold to a special purpose asset vehicle as approved by the bank's board on Dec. 19 last year.

The board of an unnamed Metrobank subsidiary approved the sale of its non-accruing loans to a special purpose asset vehicle in coordination with the parent bank last Dec. 5.

The bank said it signed a memorandum of understanding with a foreign investor in the proposed special purpose asset vehicle and with an investment manager to set up this vehicle.

Metrobank earlier disclosed that the memorandum was signed with US-based investment firm Lehman Brothers.

Under the terms of this agreement, certain non-accruing loans of the bank and a subsidiary collateralized by real estate and golf shares shall be purchased by a special purpose asset vehicle.

This vehicle will have equity consisting of 60 percent Filipinos and 40 percent foreign.

The Metrobank group is barred from being investors in the special purpose asset vehicle.

The agreed purchase price of the non-accruing loans will be paid in the following manner: P2.5 billion in cash, P3 billion in senior notes and P13.2 billion in junior notes.

Senior notes bear interest at market rate and are payable within five years from their issuance dates, while junior notes bear interest at soft rates but not lower than 2 percent and payable within seven years from their issuance dates.

Last year, Metrobank said the foreign investor, through the investment manager, remitted its initial investment in the special asset purpose vehicle equivalent to P2.5 billion. The investment manager, in turn, remitted to the bank as partial payment of the Loans for Sale.

However, pending the passage of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Act of 2002 by the Senate, the incorporation of the new firm has been suspended, Metrobank said.

Accordingly, the non-accruing loans selected for transfer to the special purpose asset vehicle under the terms of the MOU are classified as Other Resources.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone (left), speaking before the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, cites strong trade and investment ties between the United States and the Philippines and notes that the relationship between the two countries has been taking on new meaning and new energy in recent years.

Philam subsidiary's assets hit P3.5B

BARELY seven months after hitting the P2-billion milestone in assets managed, Philam Asset Management Inc. has breached the P3.5-billion mark.

Record sales results, combined with outstanding investment earnings, have given Pami its highest growth rate ever.

"Superior fund performance, a wide product line, access to topnotch distribution channels and outstanding customer service all contribute in the achievement of our business objectives," Pami president and chief executive Rex Ma. Mendoza said.

"We have a long track record of surpassing our benchmarks in terms of fund performance, thereby our shareholders higher-than-average yields for their investments," he added.

Pami still gives a return of 9 percent on its peso bond fund and over 6 percent on its dollar bond fund.

"What makes it even better is that these rates are net of taxes to the investors, making them worthy alternatives to common fixed-term deposits," Mendoza said.

Pami's balanced fund and strategic growth fund, on the other hand, have preserved capital values during bear markets and took advantage of stock market upturns.

The Philam Fund is up 12 percent on a year-to-date basis, while the Philam Strategic Growth Fund is up 15 percent for the same period.

"Our funds' net asset values per share never traded below their par values," Mendoza said.

Retirement by law or CBA

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE RULE is well-settled in this jurisdiction. Whenever there is a difference between the terms and conditions for retirement under the law, on one hand, and those under a CBA or company policy or plan, on the other, that which allows a more liberal package of benefits to the retiree applies.

If the option to retire, however, is vested by law or a contract upon the employer, the same should be upheld. It would be a grave abuse of discretion on the part of administrative tribunals or courts to impose upon employers the duty to consult the union on the exercise of such a prerogative.

Pilots' retirement plan

The rulings were enunciated by the Supreme Court in the case of PAL vs. the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines (GR 143686, Jan. 15, 2000). The 1967 PAL retirement plan provides, among others, that "any member who remains in the service of the company after his normal retirement date may retire either AT HIS OPTION or AT THE OPTION OF THE COMPANY."

The retirement plan also provides that the pilots' normal retirement date is when he "completes 20 years of service as a pilot for PAL or has flown 20,000 hours for PAL."

Retirement benefits

Normal retirement entitles a pilot to "either a lump sum payment of P100,000, or such termination pay benefits to which he may be entitled to under existing laws, whichever is the greater amount."

Late retirement yields a retirement package of either a lump sum of P5,000 for each completed year of service or such termination pay benefits to which he may be entitled under existing laws, whichever is the greater amount."

PAL-Alpap dispute

By virtue of the above provisions of the plan, PAL unilaterally retired airline pilot A.C. under Section 2, Article VII thereof. Alpap contended that such an action constituted illegal dismissal and union busting. A notice of strike was filed by Alpap. The labor secretary assumed jurisdiction over the dispute.

In his decision, the labor secretary sustained PAL's retirement of pilot A.C. as a valid exercise of its option under the retirement plan. Furthermore, he ordered that "the retirement benefits provided under Section 2 shall be adjusted to comply with Section 5 of Republic Act 7641."

Employers' option to retire

The labor secretary ordered PAL to first consult the pilot concerned before it should exercise its option to retire, supposedly "in the interest of justice."

On appeal, the Supreme Court rejected this portion of the secretary's ruling. The court held that the additional condition was tantamount to an amendment of the retirement plan. The labor secretary's ruling was held to be at variance with the controlling doctrine in the cases of Bulletin Publishing Corp. (144 SCRA 628, 1986), Progressive Development Corp. (GR 138826, Oct. 30, 2000) and Manuel Luis Quezon University (274 SCRA 36, 1997).

The Supreme Court chided the labor secretary for overstepping "the boundaries of reason and fairness when he imposed on PAL the additional requirement of consulting each pilot prior to retiring him."

Best of both worlds

If a pilot is granted benefits under Sections 1 and 2 of Article VII of the 1967 Alpap retirement plan, he would get less than that provided under Article 287 of the Labor Code.

If a pilot is granted only the benefits under Article 287, the benefits that he would get will be less than those under the applicable retirement plans of PAL (both the 1967 Alpap plan and 1972 PAL pilots plan were incorporated into the CBA in May 1972).

Thus, the court ruled that a pilot should get that which is greater, that is the P100,000 under the 1967 Alpap plan and the 240 percent of gross monthly income per year of service under the 1972 PAL pilots plan. Here, the pilots got the best of both worlds. But management got an affirmation in the exercise of its prerogatives.

Win-win solution

This ruling is a win-win solution to the issues presented for resolution. On the employer's option to retire a pilot, the court decided in favor of the company. On the amount of retirement, the high tribunal decided in favor of the pilot.

This, then, is a very wise decision, legally sound and politically astute. For the guidance of HR managers who are in the process of formulating their employees' retirement plan, it is strongly suggested that they ask their lawyers to give them a briefing on this new Supreme Court decision. It is always better to ask the specialists than to create sources of future legal issues and litigation.

HR challenge

HR managers are called upon to champion the clarification of corporate policies so that both employers and employees are guided by specific and definite norms. They should align these policies with existing laws and jurisprudence.

Above all, HR professionals should nurture the self-esteem of corporate officials and personnel who have spent the best years of their lives serving the company. They should be given graceful exits and a package of retirement pay commensurate with their contributions to the business.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

DBCC sees inflation hitting 6.2% on higher oil prices

By Clarissa S. Batino

INFLATION could move up to as high as 6.2 percent by year's end, the Development Budget Coordinating Committee has forecast. This estimate is higher than the 5-percent to 6-percent target set by the government.

The DBCC's worst-case forecast was based on expectations that world crude prices would go up in the coming months because of conflicts in the Middle East over Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

The committee conducted three simulations on inflation this year based on an average petroleum price of $21.1 a barrel, $25 a barrel and $25.8 a barrel.

The evaluation also took into account that world crude prices would go up to $22.8 a barrel, $28 a barrel and $30 a barrel by December.

The three simulations led to a yearend inflation estimate of 5.1 percent, 5.9 percent and 6.2 percent.

Still, the DBCC believes average inflation will range from 4.3 percent to 5 percent even if oil prices climb to as high as $30 a barrel in December.

It said the conflict in the Middle East pushed fuel prices from an average of $18.48 a barrel in January to $24.29 a barrel in the first half of April.

The assumptions leading to the three scenarios of the DBCC were based on movements of oil prices during the 1990 Gulf War.

"During that time, prices rose to $31.88 per barrel in October 1990 from $19.64 per barrel in August 1990. Eventually, prices fell to $16.74 per barrel in February 1991, when the war ended," a source from the DBCC told reporters.

In the first quarter, inflation stood at an average 3.6 percent, lower than the government's forecast of 4.2 percent and also down from 6.8 percent a year ago.

In the first three months of the year, crude prices were lower by 15 percent.

As of April 15, crude prices had fallen to $22.92 a barrel from a peak of $25.86 a barrel in recent weeks.

PLDT to install 22,000 DSL ports this year

By Abigail L. Ho

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will install 22,000 digital subscriber line (DSL) ports nationwide this year to expand its broadband coverage in the countryside and accommodate more subscribers.

"This is one way of helping the government boost the (information technology) industry in the country. By providing the pipelines in most areas nationwide for integrated voice, video and data services, we create an environment conducive to enhanced productivity for small and big corporations, as well as individuals," PLDT senior vice president for corporate business group Alfredo Panlilio said in a statement yesterday.

PLDT recently rolled out its DSL service in Dagupan, Tarlac, Calamba, Javalera in Cavite and at the First Cavite Industrial Park.

With the continuing rollout, PLDT hopes to boost the number of subscriptions, not only in urban areas, but also in ecozones and in the provinces where the need for high-speed Internet and data services is rising.

PLDT vice president for business solutions Nerisse Ramos said the aggressive rollout plan aimed to benefit not only business enterprises but also schools, hotels, Internet cafés and individuals who needed fast yet cost-effective Internet access.

"The beauty of DSL is that it employs ordinary copper line connections and allows for simultaneous voice, video and data services using a single line. Because the lines are already there, DSL obviates the need for expensive equipment such as those used in other broadband technologies. We can therefore offer cost-effective broadband solutions," she added.

DSL subscribers can avail themselves of high-speed Internet access, many times faster than that achieved by dial-up connections. Since no additional high-technology equipment is needed aside from regular phone lines, there is no need to shell out huge amount of money to acquire this service.

PLDT's DSL service currently covers around 6,000 residential and corporate subscribers.

Its DSL coverage presently includes Metro Manila, where over 1,000 buildings are "DSL-ready;" La Trinidad in Benguet; San Fernando in Pampanga; and La Union in North Luzon.

HSBC launches Web-based banking, credit card service

HSBC Corp. has introduced "online@hsbc"—the HSBC Group's Internet banking service, with a wide range of features and functions relating to bank accounts and credit cards—in the Philippines.

"Today, online@hsbc has over 1.2 million users worldwide," the bank said in a news statement.

The new Internet service allows HSBC clients here to check account balances and get a transaction history, as well as transfer money locally and abroad. It also lets them pay their bills and credit cards, open time deposits, inquire about the peso-dollar rate and secure bank instructions by email.

It also includes "Text Alerts," a new Web-based short-messaging service that alerts HSBC customers whenever transactions involving their accounts occur.

"Online@hsbc has been designed with the customer in mind to make their daily bank experience more convenient. Being the 'world's local bank' allows HSBC to share expertise and experience across countries where we operate. Online@hsbc is a perfect example of how customer experiences around the world have shaped and improved our Internet banking solution," HSBC in the Philippines chief executive Paul Lawrence said.

"The introduction of an Internet banking service to our customers is a further step in HSBC's aim to provide our customers with the best-possible banking service via multiple banking channels. Today, customers are demanding that banks adopt banking channels to fit their lifestyle. Online@hsbc allows our customers to do their banking 24 hours a day anywhere in the world where they have access to the Internet," Lawrence said.

The easy online registration process of online@hsbc allows customers to use either their automated teller cards, credit cards or telephone banking number and personal identification number to register 24 hours a day at home, at work, abroad or wherever they have access to the Internet.

Japanese economy shrinks as predicted

TOKYO—Japan's gross domestic product in the three months to December was unchanged from a 1.2-percent quarter-on-quarter fall estimated earlier, but corporate investment was weaker than feared, data showed Thursday.

On an annualized basis, GDP in the December quarter was revised to a fall of 4.8 percent from a 4.5-percent slide seen previously, the Cabinet Office said.

"We revised GDP in the fourth quarter downward as (there was a) slight downward revision in capital expenditure in the finance and insurance sector," a government official told a news briefing.

"But, as the revision is so slight, overall quarter-on-quarter figures have not been revised," he said.

Capital spending in the finance and insurance sector was altered to a growth of 21.4 percent in the three months to December compared with a 23.7-percent quarter-on-quarter rise seen in the prior estimate made on March 8.

Consumption by the government was also corrected down to an increase of 0.4 percent from a 0.7-percent rise.

Private consumption, which accounts for 55 percent of GDP, was unchanged at an increase of 1.9 percent over the quarter.

GDP, the primary indicator of the status of the economy, measures total value of goods and services produced over a particular period of time. ***AFP***

Fed says US economy climbing out of rut, but worries remain

WASHINGTON—The US economy is improving after falling into recession last year, but concerns remain about the pace of recovery, the Federal Reserve said on Wednesday in a report.

"Almost all Federal Reserve Districts reported signs of improvement or actual increases in economic activity since the last survey," released in early March, the Fed said in its "beige book" report, an anecdotal summary of conditions across the country.

"While the overall tone was positive, a few districts expressed qualifications about the pace of the recovery or the strength of their regional economies," the Fed said.

The report said the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, one of the Fed's dozen regional banks, saw economic conditions improving but that the rate of gain had "slowed considerably" from earlier in the year. The Kansas City and Dallas Fed banks also said their regional economies were "still weak."

Fed decision makers will mull the report, along with other data, as they meet to set interest rate policy on May 7. The hopeful yet wary tone of the beige book reinforced expectations that the central bank will hold off on raising rates until it is certain the economy is on a solid growth path.

Gary Thayer, chief economist with AG Edwards & Sons in St. Louis, said the report showed the economy would not be rebounding strongly soon.

"It appears to be a reflection of a moderate recovery, not a robust one," he said.

The report found most regions saw retail sales rise or hold steady and all areas saw improvement in the hard-hit factory sector. It noted, however, that labor markets remained "slack" and that manufacturers' plans to invest in new equipment—something policymakers are watching closely—"remained limited." The report was prepared by the Kansas City Fed bank based on information collected before April 16.

"Demand for labor showed signs of firming in several districts but was still reported as weak in others," the Fed said. Apart from skilled health care workers, there were "few reports" of worker shortages, according to the report.

A pullback in business spending led the economy into a recession that began in March 2001 and economists expect spending on new equipment to rise later in the year, as firms see a return to profitability. ***Reuters***

Moody's changes Indonesia's rating outlook to positive

JAKARTA—Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said it revised the outlook to positive from stable for Indonesia's B3 foreign currency country ceilings for bonds and Caa1 foreign currency country ceiling for bank deposits.

The rating agency said Indonesia's recent Paris Club memorandum of understanding with leading creditor countries and the country's improved relationships with other foreign creditors would improve the country's liquidity position in the coming two years.

Moody's added other positive developments, including a reduction in fuel subsidies, a start to privatization, the sale of the country's largest commercial bank and the prospect of further bank sales, and some improvement in banking supervision.

Indonesia's balance of payments and international liquidity have continued to be adequate, the agency said.

Moody's said that any upward movement in the ratings would depend on continued political stability, progress in disposing of Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency assets, fiscal performance, and the ability of the government to continue to meet the targets under its International Monetary Fund program.

It will also depend on the government's ability to maintain good relations with foreign creditors in general. ***AFP***

AOL Time Warner records massive loss

NEW YORK—AOL Time Warner Inc., the world's largest Internet and media company, on Wednesday posted a $54.2-billion net loss, the largest ever US quarterly net loss, after taking a whopping charge to reflect the decline in the value of its assets.

The company, home to CNN, People magazine and television shows like "The Sopranos," also reined in its total 2002 cash flow growth forecast and cut its outlook for its AOL unit, one of the weaker performing units of the quarter and a source of concern.

The weakness at the online unit in the first quarter due to the ad slump was offset by strength in its cable systems and film business, which had recent hits like "Lord of the Rings." Wall Street had been bracing for the worst and was somewhat relieved.

"The stock was trading for another shoe to drop and it didn't happen. The online ad piece certainly wasn't good news, but I don't think it was a disaster," CIBC analyst Mike Gallant said. "On the quarter, I'm relieved. It wouldn't surprise me to see a relief rally tomorrow."

The company posted a first quarter net loss of $54.2 billion, or $12.25 a basic share, compared with a net loss of $1.37 billion, or 31 cents a share, a year earlier.

The loss is almost as big as the 2001 gross domestic products of Hungary and the Czech Republic. ***Reuters***

AT&T posts nearly $1-B 1st quarter loss

NEW YORK—Phone and cable carrier AT&T Corp. reported its loss widened to nearly $1 billion in the first quarter, blaming the performance on falling long-distance sales, an accounting change and a slide in the value of its investments.

But its earnings before one-time items beat analysts' expectations and its shares were higher in midday trading.

AT&T said Wednesday that it lost $975 million, or 28 cents per share, in the three months ended March 31 compared with a loss of $192 million, or 10 cents a share, in the year-ago quarter.

The company's revenues continued to slide, especially in its long-distance telephone businesses. Quarterly revenues of $12.02 billion were 11.3 percent below last year's $13.55 billion.

The Basking Ridge, New Jersey-based company said long-distance telephone sales continued to be punished by increasing competition from cellular service, email and local telephone carriers that had been steadily gaining federal approval to enter the long-distance market. ***AP***

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Humanizing the Infotech age at St. Benedict College CAS

THE COLLEGE of Arts and Sciences of St. Benedict College (San Beda Alabang) will mark its 8th year of successful operation this school year 2002-2003 by launching new academic programs and introducing the latest technology tools intended to give its students and graduates the competitive edge in the information age.

The CAS will offer new major courses in its degree programs such as Management of Financial Institutions under the Business Management program, Tourism Management under International Studies, and two new major courses under the BS Information Technology program: Systems Development and Network Administration.

The CAS also offers courses that recently underwent curriculum development: BS Business Management major in Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Sales, BS Information Management, BS Accountancy, BA Psychology, BA Communication and Media Studies, BA International Studies major in Asia Pacific Studies, and Philippine Government and External Relations.

Complementing these academic innovations are the technology components, such as the integration of E-learning course modules in all its computer subjects which would give opportunity to students to become certified professionals by leading computer vendors such as Microsoft, Java and IBM. Also, the CAS will be using two computer platforms in its Information Technology laboratories: Pentium 4 PCs and the iMac G4 800. Negotiations are also being finalized to make the school an official Microsoft Office Testing Center (MOUS).

Behind this technological highway, a holistic formation program that is grounded in the humanities balances the CAS academic programs. Core subjects such as Peace Studies and Human Rights, Gender Issues, and Lay Apostolate are distinct marks that celebrate the beauty of being Catholic Christian in principle, Benedictine in orientation, and Filipino in character—the very essence of the education formation of St. Benedict College.

PGA CARS TOPS BMW SALES

The jubilant PGA Cars sales team, shown above, has been responsible for making PGA Cars Inc. the top-selling authorized BMW dealer with the highest number of units sold for the first quarter of 2002. Led by president Miguel Coyluto, general manager Miguelito Jose, and sales managers Mike Pamintuan and Andy Maribao, the sales team continually strives to provide superior service to PGA customers. PGA Cars Inc offers the full BMW product range. Visit its showroom along Edsa, and members of the sales team will be on-hand to assist. For inquiries, call 727-0381 to 85, or 724-0964.

GLOBE SPREADS THE WORD VIA 'CATEXTISM'

Users of Globe Handyphone, the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom, will find out that they can now have access to Bible quotes and other useful inspirational services like prayer guides and reflection-sharing through text messaging. The service, called 'Catextism', was the result of a cooperation between the Auxillary Bishop of Manila and cellular phone companies in launching a new service that will tap the texting generation in spreading the Gospel. Globe Handyphone subscribers can register to the service and start using it by texting 'Amen' to the access number 2371 for Globe. Menu selections will then guide the users through the various features of the 'Catextism' service.

Roco to receive official Toeic study

AN OFFICIAL copy of "The Test of English for International Communication", or Toeic, will be presented to Department of Education (DepEd) Sec. Raul S. Roco to provide him with official certified data pertaining to the measurement of English proficiency in the Philippines.

The Toeic study aims to encourage DepEd to continue formulating policies encouraging Filipino students to become proficient in the English language, especially in the midst of global competition.

Dr. Hermelo Cervantes, chief executive officer of the HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems Inc, the institution officially administering Toeic in the Philippines, said that the recent study showed mediocre English proficiency among this year's graduating students.

The Toeic study had been developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) based in Princeton, New Jersey. The ETS also confirmed that DepEd's new policy of extending the teaching time for English in Elementary and High School levels is highly recommended.

"It is a timely measure, considering that the problem which has been with us for several years has either been ignored by or unknown to many in the education sector," Cervantes emphasized.

He added it was laudable for DepEd to start implementing the new policy, which would be effective June this year. The Department's own research revealed that a large number of Filipinos failed to land overseas jobs due to their failure to pass the English language proficiency certification tests.

The same study also found out that Filipino graduating students who took up nursing and education courses in Metro Manila registered poor levels in their English language proficiency. They had difficulty understanding the language, could not properly handle conversations in English, and were not able to sustain fluency as well as register accuracy.

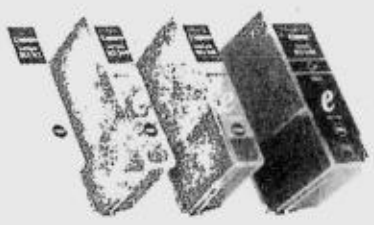
Interested businesses, educational institutions, and foundations can obtain free information and data on the Toeic Study. Call 633-7734, 636-6964 or 910-1091. HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems Inc. is the official administrator of Toeic in the Philippines. Its partnership with ETS, the official developers of TOEFL in the United States, provides it full access to standards recognized worldwide.

SIGMA DELTA PHI ALUMNAE INDUCTION

The Sigma Delta Phi Alumnae Association of the Philippines recently held its induction of the 2002-2004 board of directors and officers with Celia Diaz-Laurel of batch '48, wife of former vice president Salvador H. Laurel and a multi-awarded Sigma Deltan, was the inducting officer and keynote speaker (extreme right). Inducted were (from left) immediate past president Luzbella Jamosin-Gecolea ('61) as ex-officio member of the board, Lindaflor Tiangco-Yñiguez ('61) as auditor; Evelyn Pangilinan-Aliling ('69) as public relations officer, Victoria Javier-Sese ('62) as liaison officer/coordinator for the UP and UP Los Baños chapter, Nadja B. Buenafe ('94) as recording secretary, Tanya Miren S.R. Cruz ('92) as corresponding secretary, Michelle Meneses-Antonio ('69) as treasurer, Baby Salmingo-Olivar ('69) as third vice president (finance), Lena P. Lubi ('66) as second vice president (social welfare and civic affairs), lawyer Maripaz Tagle-Chua ('67) as first vice president (education and cultural affairs), and Linda C. Gamboa ('61) as board chair and president.

ProductFILES

Canon—ink different



ONLY CANON can boast the proprietary technology of Think Tanks, the original independent ink cartridge system that yields significant savings for its users. At the heart of each Canon S-series printer (S400SP, S600, S6300 and S800) are individual color ink tanks that you can replace when—and only when—each color ink runs out. By virtue of the fact competition still uses integrated cartridges that run out of one ink and oblige you to throw away hundreds of pages worth of other colors, you'll appreciate the thrift of the Canon S-series. Likewise, zero wastage is further guaranteed by using Think Tanks' real-time ink level detection. You can also check the level of the ink with your bare eyes because inks are contained in clear transparent tanks, there's no need for you to shake your ink tanks just to check if your inks are depleted.

Labor book released

'Practical Guidelines in Employee Relations' by Ramon T. Jimenez was released recently. The book is said to be much-awaited since it is written for practical use even by non-lawyers, with forms and guidelines from the A to Zs of labor laws and practices. Limited copies are now available at the 10th floor of the Aurora Milestone Building, 1045 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, or call 421-0060.

'Project Cathedral Wing' launched

MASBATENOS living in Metro Manila will hold a fellowship and Holy Mass on April 28 at 4 p.m. at the San Jose Seminary Chapel, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights to launch "Project Cathedral Wing" that will renovate the Cathedral of St. Anthony de Padua in Masbate. Bishop Joel Z. Baylon of the diocese of Masbate will officiate in the concelebrated mass, together with Msgr. Quintin Feraren Jr., parish priest of Masbate City.

Well-known interior designer Tony Adriano will design the main altar, while architect Rey Uy will renovate the ceiling and exterior of the church.

The fundraising committee is composed of lawyer Rainer Butalid and Lydia Valencia-Monfort, co-chair, Dr. Marites Lalaine Arcenas-Rapadas, secretary, and Jose Uy-Arollado, PRO. Honorary chair is Bishop Joel Baylon, while Msgr. Feraren is executive chair.

For details, call Monfort at 0919-8777238 or 525-2464, or Rapadas at 0917-3949875.

UP BIOLOGY ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Officers and directors of the University of the Philippines Institute of Biology Alumni Association (IBAA) meet to prepare for its 7th general assembly and alumni homecoming to be held on April 27, Saturday, in the UP Institute of Biology (formerly Departments of Botany and Zoology), Diliman, Quezon City. Shown seated (from left) are professor Aracell L. Juliano, professor Nerissa S. Vargas, Dr. Nellie Lopez (director, IB), Cristina Aro-Austria (president), and professor Remedios R. Roderos. Standing (from left) are Josie Magno-Biña, Dr. Rogelio O. Juliano, Dr. Miguel D. Fortes, Josie Ronquillo-Guinoo, and Dr. Virginia S. Cariño. For details, call Lopez or Roderos at 920-5471.

GLOBAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Working parents in the privacy of their offices can now monitor their child at any hour they are at Little Dipper Learning Center by simply using a secure ID and password that opens their child portfolio in the Internet. Doting grandparents and other family members residing anywhere in the world will be able to view their grandchild, nephews or nieces activities by visiting www.littledipperweb.com. This is but one of the unique programs introduced by LDLC as it opens its door to global best practices in preschool learning. LDLC integrates technology and the arts as growth and development avenues for the child. It provides an exciting new approach to learning development called the Vertical and Horizontal Curricular Approach (VHCA). Shown helping DSWD Undersecretary Lourdes G. Balanon cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the opening of the LDLC at Parc Chateau, Ortigas recently were Abby Villa, Teddy Travis, Meg Villa and Maymay Herras. LDLC president Edward Travis, wife Teng, and Ning Villa look on. This summer, LDLC is offering an Integrated Summer Program to children 2 to 6 years old and a Summer Art Workshop to kids 4 to 12 years old. For inquiries call 687-0926 or e-mail director@littledipperweb.com.

Clips

Outlet Yard's April activities

THE OUTLET Yard has prepared a series of fun activities for the whole family this April. The Center for Pop hosts a variety show on Thursday, April 25. Every Saturday, enjoy the comic antics of upcoming comedians and the live music of upcoming bands from different schools. Celebrate summer with a Summer Street Fashion Show on April 27, featuring the summer collection of the different stores. The Outlet Yard is the newest hip mall in Quezon City featuring popular retail stores selling the hottest fashion wear at factory outlet prices. It is located at 1480 Quezon Avenue, near corner Scout Borromeo. For more inquiries, call 373-3528.

PhilOnline's 50%, money-back offer

PHILIPPINES Online, one of the country's major Internet service providers, extends a 50-percent discount with money-back guarantee to all new subscribers until April 30. Not only are new subscribers provided with the 50-percent off for their first month, they will also enjoy the benefit of getting a free Teddy Bear for every subscription. New subscribers are granted a risk-free trial period with money-back guarantee. For more information, visit www.philonline.com, or call PhilOnline at 411-4652.

World's Food and Trade expo 2002

LAST YEAR'S most successful food show—with an estimated 20,000 visitors and over 220 exhibit booths showcasing food and beverage products from all around the world—is back. The World's Food & Trade Expo 2002, set Aug. 2 to 4 at the World Trade Center, promises to once again be the major international forum for foodies. Among added attractions will be four new co-located events: Baker's Fair (showcase of baked products); Taste Expo (a series of culinary competitions); FoodMach 2002 Expo (the latest technologies in the F&B industry), and A Taste of Manila (a culinary feast of different themes). All interested exhibitors may get in touch with Premier Events Plus Group Inc., at 436-4711/12, 929-7963/93, or fax 436-4898. E-mail info@PEPGroup.com.

Armando Malay bio off the press

ANVIL Publishing Inc launches "Armando Malay: The Life and Times of a Filipino Journalist and Activist" on April 22, 4:30 p.m. at the University of the Philippines Executive House in Diliman, Quezon City. The story of this much-admired former dean of student affairs of the UP was written by veteran journalists Maritess N. Sison and Yvonne Chua. The biography was based on Malay's own detailed memoirs and countless interviews with family, friends and colleagues. Authors Sison and Chua are seasoned and award-winning media practitioners. Sison is the Manila correspondent for the New York-based World Press magazine. Chua is presently training director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and is also part-time journalism professor at the UP. Both have won awards in the Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE SPOUSES SERGIO C PAUG AND DOLORES S PAUG WAS SETTLED BY SELF ADJUDICATION BY THE SOLE HEIR PAULA S PAUG PER DOC. NO. 563; PAGE NO. 14; BOOK NO. 3; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. JUANITO M. SAAVEDRA
PDI-April 26, May 3 & 10, 2002

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50
FEMALE DOMESTIC HELPERS
Monthly Salary: HK $3,670
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This ad is allowed by POEA under MC 2

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late JOSE A. RIVERA y PEREZ and MAGDALENA A. de RIVERA, has been extra-judicially settled among their heirs on April 15, 2002 as per Doc. No. 36, Page No. 8, Book No. I, Series of 2002, before Atty. Jose V. Mejia, Notary Public for Makati City.
(PDI-April 26, May 3 & 10, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLARO ANASTACIO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs, per Doc. No. 368, Page No. 19, Book No. 74, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Ma. Nimia M. Dela Vega
PDI -- April 12, 19 & 26, 2002

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement among the heirs of the late FIDELITO CAPISTRANO per Doc. No. 12 Book No. 5 Page No. 3, Series of 2002 Before Not. Public ATTY. ISRAEL E. PEREN Manila (PDI-April 12, 19, 26, 2002))

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Bank of the Philippine Islands Certificate Nos. 122748, 163239, and 9913966 issued to Erlinda G. Fernandez and Certificate Nos. 770142, 7700490, 7700735, 8800140, 8800580 and 8800911 issued to Ephraim Gochangco, Inc. have been lost.
(PDI-April 26, May 3&10,2002)

This is to inform the public that Visa #153670 / 328653, ACR# M-8098558 issued to James M. Douglas was lost in Maasin, Southern Leyte
(PDI-Apr. 19 & 26, 2002)

PERSONAL

Children Dress
From Indonesia SALE NOW!
150 each all must go! 535-7366

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancy for the following positions in the Project Management Office (PMO) based in Zamboanga City of the "Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project (WMCIP)" with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR

Duties: He/she will:
- Monitor and coordinate the contracted activities for the community development component of the project;
- Establish and cultivate strong relations with other social development initiatives including those of LGUs, NGOs and POs; and
- Act as a supervisor and technical advisor to the provincial Community Organization Coordinators of Zamboanga Sur, Zamboanga Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan.

Qualifications:
- At least 7 years experience in economic-oriented communit development;
- Minimum of two years managerial work, preferably with some exposure in other countries and/or alternative community animation and mobilization methodologies;
- Holder of degree of relevant course, with master in relevant course an advantage:
- Proven experience in working with NGOs and civil society groups of various kinds in a managerial or advisory as well as practical role will be an advantage;
- Must be willing to spend considerable time in travel and temporary residence in the field; and
- Knowledge of internet an advantage.

2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Duties: He/she will:
- Provide high level of project management advice and directions, training and mentoring to senior management of WMCIP; and
- Must have the ability to establish and develop close and harmonious working relations with the project management and all project stakeholders.

Qualifications:
- At least 50 years of age, an experienced trainer, knowledgeable about the training cycle and training techniques and approaches required to raise the competencies of Managers working on development projects;
- Degree holder in Social Science courses; holders of masteral or doctorate degree an advantage;
- At least 10 years practical experience in successful project management; ideally in remote locations, in post-conflict situations and with projects financed by international funding institutions (IFIs);
- Expert in participatory methods, adult education, community development, workshop facilitation and training of trainers techniques; and
- Fluency in the English language.

Terms of Reference (TOR):
Terms of Reference for each position are available at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office, 1st Floor FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the WMCIP Project Management Office located at 3rd Floor, Fidela Building, Gov. Alvarez St., Zamboanga City.

Terms and Conditions of Employment:
Successful candidates will be on a contractual basis and will be based in the WMCIP-PMO in Zamboanga City with field work in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan.

When/Where to Send Applications:
Application letters and corresponding resume should be sent/submitted in sealed envelopes to:

The Assistant Secretary for Support Services and
Executive Director, Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
1st Floor FAPsO Building
DAR Compound, Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Or
The Project Manager
WESTERN MINDANAO COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROJECT
3rd Floor Fidela Building, Gov. Alvarez St.
Zamboanga City

All applications must be postmarked or received not later than May 11, 2002. For inquiries, please contact Susan Perez or Josie Arevalo at telephone numbers (02) 927-0752 or 453-3633, or Sheryl Temple (Zamboanga City) at tel. number (062) 992-4115.

Inquirer-April 26 & 28, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
BONDOC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Management Office
Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed for the following projects:

1. Rehabilitation of 14 kms. Farm to Market Road in Buenavista, Quezon
2. Irrigation Projects a) Brgy. Sta. Maria Ibaba, Gen. Luna, Quezon
   b) Brgy. San Nicolas, Macalelon, Quezon
   c) Brgy. Cambuga, Mulanay, Quezon

Prequalification forms, complete details and particulars of the abovementioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO, Governor Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 from **May 14-16, 2002.**

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liaison Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before **May 17, 2002.**

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bidding conference on **May 27, 2002** at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEPRIANO J. PUNZALAN**
PBAC-Chairman

(PDI - April 26, 27 & 28, 2002)

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Blue ball

Q. Why does the Earth look blue from space?

A. Because of the sea that covers about 71% of our planet, and also because of the Earth's atmosphere. All the Earth's light comes from the Sun in different kinds of wave lengths. Of the colors we see, red has a longer wavelength than blue. Sea water and dust in the atmosphere absorb longer waves (red colors) and reflect shorter waves (blue colors). So the sea and the sky that envelope the planet look blue.

Ooops! The term "color blindness" is misleading. The description suggests that people suffering from this defect cannot recognize any color, their visual world being altogether gray, which is exceedingly rare. In the majority of cases, those afflicted with color blindness cannot differentiate between certain colors -- mostly red and/or green -- while all others can be distinguished by them, only less vividly. About one man in 25 is colorblind, but only about one woman in 250.

Past Forward. This day in 1989: Lucille Ball, American TV's queen of comedy, died in a Los Angeles hospital after a heart attack, aged 77. The zany red-headed actress shot to fame in 1951 when she and her husband, Desi Arnaz, launched America's first TV sitcom, *I Love Lucy*, which was initially rejected by every major studio.

WORD WATCH

Komedi : ultimately, from the Greek *komos* ('revelry') + *oidos* ('singer, poet'), or literally 'singer in the revels,' hence 'actor in a light amusing play.'

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID
ITB NO. 04-14-2002

The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested authorized Manufacturers, Distributors or Dealers of motorcycles, duly accredited by PAGCOR's Suppliers Accreditation and Evaluation Division (SAED) and prequalified by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) "B", in its forthcoming public bidding for:

20 units — Kawasaki Eliminator - BN175

SPECIFICATIONS	
Max. Horsepower	11.8 KW (16PS) at 8500 rpm
Max. Torque	1.4 kg.m/7500 rpm
Engine	
Type	4 stroke, SOHC, 1 cylinder
Displacement	173.9 cc
Bore x stroke	65 x 52.4 mm
Starter	Electric
Ignition system	DC, CDI
Frame	
Type	Double cradle
Suspension, front/rear	Telescopio fork/Swing arm
Dimension	
LxWxH	2155x765x1025 mm
fuel tank capacity	14 liters
Wheelbase	1460 mm
Seat Height	680 mm
Road Clearance	165 mm

Suppliers should primarily comply with PAGCOR's Accreditation requirements in order to participate in the prequalification proceedings. The Application Form for Accreditation is available at the **SUPPLIERS ACCREDITATION & EVALUATION DIVISION (SAED), PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT (PPD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.**

For prequalification, send a letter of intent addressed to **MR. GERWYN P. SEE, Suppliers Accreditation & Evaluation Officer.** All Accreditation and Prequalification documents should be submitted before 5:00 P.M. of Friday, May 10, 2002. Failure to comply with the requirements will render outright disqualification. Inquiries may be coursed through the **SUPPLIERS ACCREDITATION & EVALUATION DIVISION, Tel. No. 526-0573, Fax No. 523-2045.**

Other project details shall be distributed to all prequalified prospective bidders during the PRE-BID CONFERENCE, the schedule of which shall be relayed thru telephone or formal letters.

ACCEPTANCE and OPENING OF BIDS shall be announced during the same conference.

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the undersigned.

(Sgd.) **CARMENCITA A. ESPINOSA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) "B"

(PDI--April 26 & May 8, 2002)

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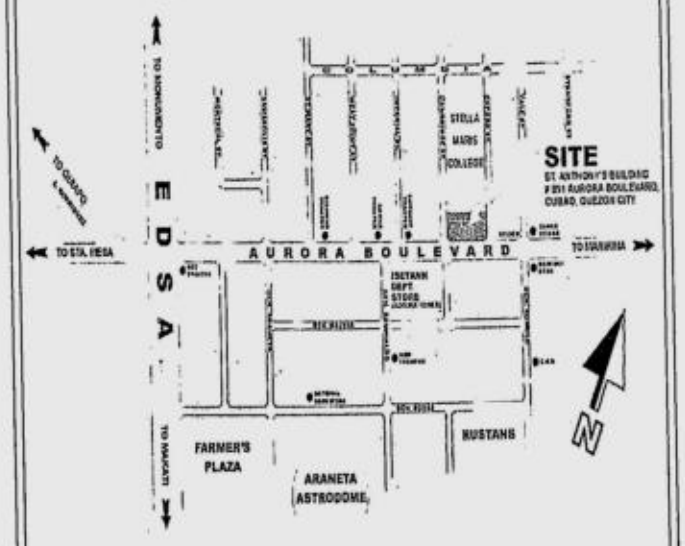

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, SEIZURE IDENTIFICATION NO. 2002-028

- versus -

Shipment of one (1) set MAN B and W HOLEBY DIESEL Engine Type '12V28/32H complete with Alternator and switchboard with the following output: x x x and one (1) set External Auxiliaries and Standard Spare Parts, etc.,

CONCORD INTL. TEXTILE IND. CORP.,
Claimant.

x----------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

CONCORD INTL. TEXTILE IND. CORP.
Mayapa, Calamba
Laguna

INVESTIGATION & ENFORCEMENT GROUP (IEG)
Bureau of Customs
Manila

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that the subject shipment has been seized for violation of Sec. 2503 (f) and (l), 3, 4 and 5 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended by R.A. 7651 and EO 226 (Omnibus Investment Code).

The above-entitled case will be heard at the Law Division, Manila International Container Port, Isla Puting Bato, North Harbor, Manila, on **10 May 2002 at 2:00 p.m.** All parties and persons concerned may appear to show cause why said article should not be forfeited in favor of the government. Failure to do so will constitute conclusive basis in law for the forfeiture thereof, without prejudice to any action that may be taken in the premises.

You are likewise notified that failure on your part to appear on the scheduled hearing date shall constrain this Office to declare you in DEFAULT and the case will be resolved based on the documents at hand.

Please be guided accordingly.

MICP Customhouse, Manila, April 24, 2002.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. NAPOLEON B. GATMAYTAN**
Chief, Law Division

PLEASE SEE:

(Sgd.) **EDWARD R. IBERA**
Hearing Officer

Inquirer-April 26, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos.: 372-5057 • 372-5043
Fax Nos.: 372-5048 • 372-5061

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID/RE-BID

The Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than 3:00 p.m. on **May 10, 2002.**

ITEM/S TO BID:

1	unit	Computer with printer
10	units	Aircondition
	-	Major repair of Cherokee Jeep*
	-	Catering Services at NMFDC, Sangley Point, Cavite City*
	-	Repair of Land Rover 110

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

** Re-bid*

(PDI - April 26, 2002)

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Atty. Antonio M. Dimaano

of Batangas City

peacefully joined our Creator
on April 24, 2002 at the age of 62.

His loving daughter **AMOR**, his parents **Nicolas** and **Eugenia**, his brothers and sisters - **Beatriz** and husband **Bonnie**, **Corazon** and husband **Mel** (†), **Efren** and wife **Wilma** (†), **Ma. Elsie** and **Dante** and wife **Girl**, and nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Filipinas Funeral Homes, De La Cruz Building 2, Hilltop, Batangas City.

Interment will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2002 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Batangas City.

I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSE "PEPE" VALBUENA LOANZON

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 24, 2002
at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Salome** (†); children and children-in-law **Baba** (†) & **Ramon Flores, Tommy** & **Tess, Jojun** & **Patty, Louie** & **Marlen, Cherie** & **Mario Dumaual, Jackie** & **Dodie Peralta, Joy** & **Chito del Rosario**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 28, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 2:00 pm Mass.

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On the 1st Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Romeo Javier Santos

February 28, 2001

"Tatay, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love will live us forever."

Loving wife **LIGAYA**; children **ROLAND, LEA, JOY, MARK.**

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God. 2 Corinthians 4:14

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOSEFINA "Nena" MARTINEZ BERNARDO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 21, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

AURORA ESPIRITU CASTELLANES

who peacefully joined our Lord on April 15, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who cared for her, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our moment of sorrow and grief.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. RUBEN BUESER ESCUETA

Retired Municipal Health Officer
Calauan, Laguna

peacefully joined our Lord
on April 25, 2002 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Dr. Carmen Espiritu Escueta**; together with children/sons-in-law; **Carmelina** & **Don Pervera, Karenina** & **George Buenafe, Roberto, Cherry Ann,** and his grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence, 118 San Benito, Alaminos, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 28, 2002 at Alaminos Public Cemetery after the 2pm Mass at Nuestra Sra. del Pilar Alaminos Parish, Alaminos, Laguna.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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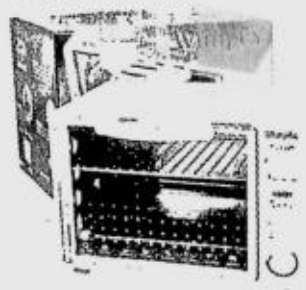

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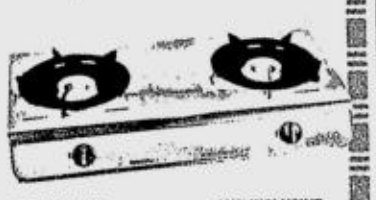

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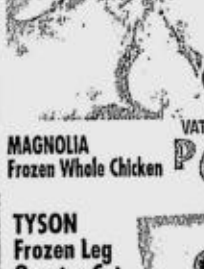
DEL MONTE Pineapple Juice 1.36 Liters x 3 — **P32** per can — VAT INCLUSIVE **P96** per pack

ARO French Fries 4.5 lbs. — VAT INCLUSIVE **P115**



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PROMAC Rice Cooker With Steamer — VAT INCLUSIVE **P575**

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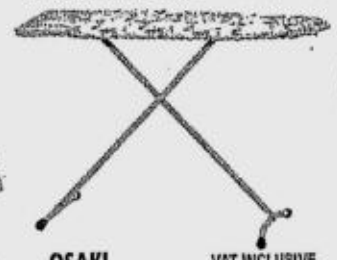

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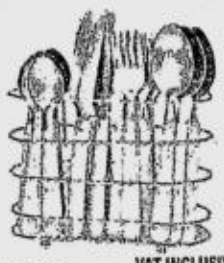
AROMA Pressure Cooker 6 Qt. — VAT INCLUSIVE **P599**

ARO Pillow 18" x 28" — VAT INCLUSIVE **P109**

NB 2-Step Ladder Metal — VAT INCLUSIVE **P339**



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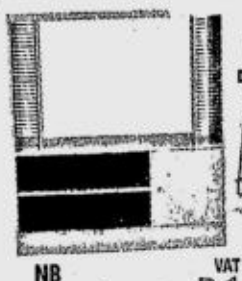

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

GRETCHEN Baretto goes back to modeling

Can she popularize 'plains' clothes?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

GETTING a popular and good-looking face to don clothes has been a strategy of many a clothes firm to propel their brands from anonymity to household names.

In the '80s, Hollywood star Brooke Shields graced many magazine pages and billboards with her half-naked body clad only in Calvin Klein jeans.

Local brands are not to be outdone. Richard Gomez was Bench's face for years; Kamiseta got the Cojuangco sisters, Mai Mai and China; Bayo started with gymnast turned tae kwon do jin Bea Lucero, then Stephanie Zubiri; Bunny jeans got actress Gelli de Belen.

But the ante was upped when Bayo paid the price to get Broadway star Lea Salonga to endorse its clothes. Sales simply skyrocketed.

Not wanting to be left behind, Kamiseta further heightened competition by getting Hollywood actress Alicia Silverstone to endorse its clothes, a first in the industry.

A less known brand followed the expensive but profitable trend

CAN/ C2

Native coffee in Cordillera grabs share of hot brew sales

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—In Vietnam, one entrepreneur is marketing what he calls "muskrat coffee." These are supposedly coffee beans collected from the droppings of muskrats, which love to eat coffee beans. The coffee beans were already peeled by the muskrats and then washed and shelled.

Not for the fastidious, but sales of "muskrat coffee" is supposedly very strong among Vietnamese drinkers.

The late historian William Henry Scott also suggested collecting coffee collected from the dung of the *mutit* or the Cordillera civet cat. The civet cats, like the Vietnam muskrats, were considered pests then in Sagada, Mountain Province because they just adore eating coffee beans.

"Civet coffee" would not be a bad brand name for the Arabica coffee harvested in the Cordillera. In fact, the agribusiness department of the Department of Agriculture is looking for a name to market the Cordillera's Arabica coffee.

"We often hear of Benguet coffee and Sagada coffee but these are just trade names. We need to have a distinct brand name of our own just like 'My Well's Coffee' of Cavite," said Patricio Ananayo, DA Cordillera agribusiness chief.

Even as Batangas recently held its coffee festival, Cordillera is thinking of hitting the coffee specialty market.

Nestle and Cafex International are the main corporate buyers of Benguet coffee but the recently formed Regional Coffee Arabica Growers Council wanted to market their coffee under their own name.

Aside from the Cordillera, other areas growing Arabica are in Mt. Apo in Davao del Sur, Mt. Matutum in South Cotabato and Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon. Of these areas, the Cordillera is the most aggressive in pushing for a bigger share of the coffee cup.

After hosting the 1st National Coffee Congress in 2000, coffee growers in the Cordillera held the 1st Regional Arabica Coffee Congress last November.

Robusta coffee, which accounts for 90 percent of coffee varieties produced in the country, recently hit a glut in the world market but the market for Arabica coffee is still strong.

During the slash of coffee prices worldwide in 2000, the price of Robusta coffee plunged from P60 a kilogram (1998 level) to P35 a kilogram. But the price of Arabica remained constant at P90 to P100 a kilogram.

Immanuel Torrejon, president of Cafex International, said the Benguet Arabica (mostly of the Bourbon and Typica varieties) is being sought by gourmet buyers all over the world. He said this type of coffee could become "world class" with a comprehensive cultivation and marketing program.

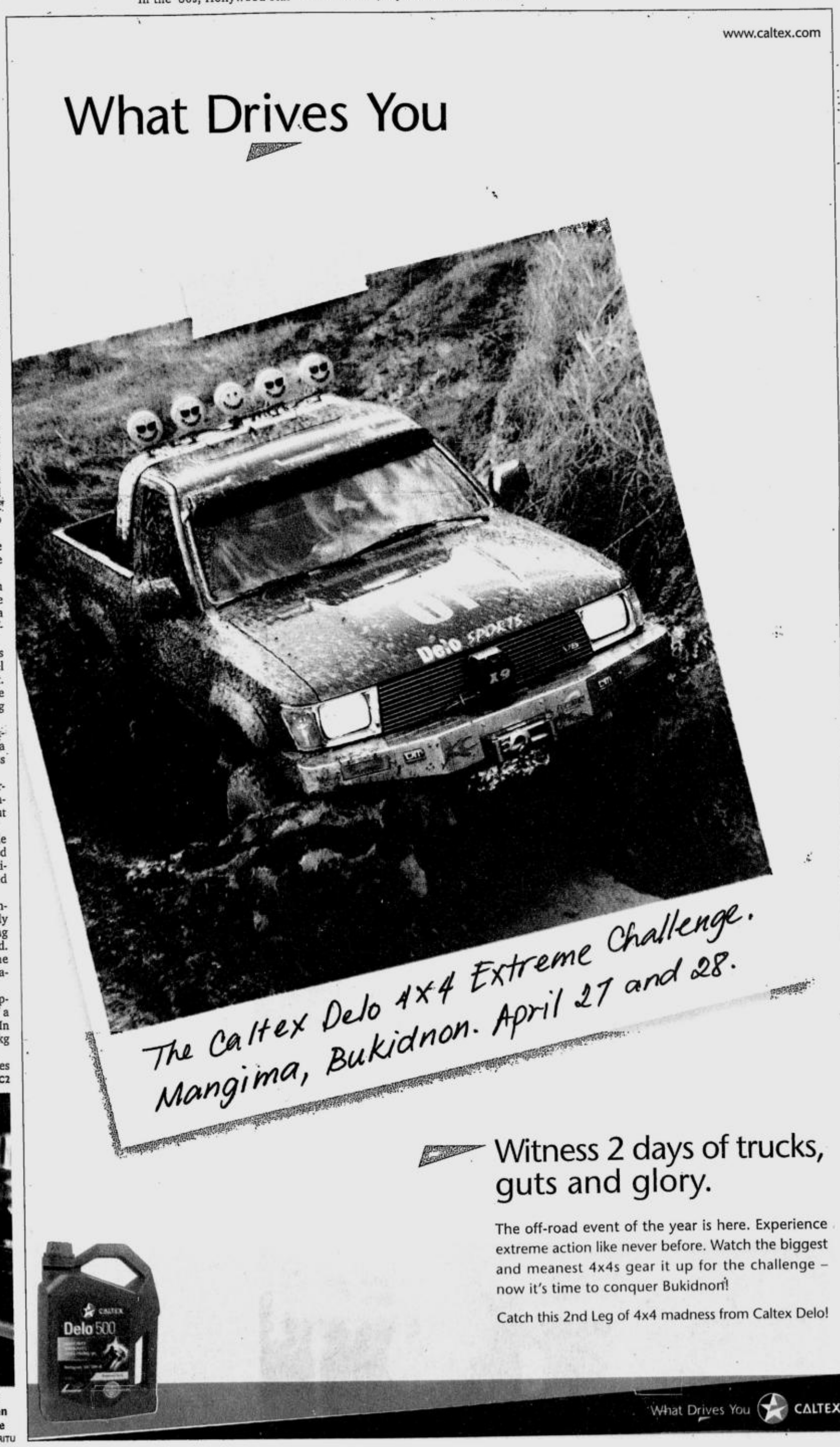
Torrejon said the affluence of the Philippine market would see a consumption of a million 60-kilogram coffee bags by 2005. In 2000, coffee consumption was 795,000 60-kg bags, he said.

Because many coffee-producing countries

NATIVE/ C2

CALOY Garcia, who belongs to a coffee retailing family of businessmen, had been expanding his market abroad, with some success.

EV ESPIRITU



Can she popularize 'plains' clothes?

From page C1

and invested in a face to popularize its clothes.

Plains & Prints owner and designer Roxanne Ang-Farillas says she was churning out good quality clothes for eight years before she decided it was time to get recognized.

She and husband cum business partner Ericson could only think of one face for their clothes—actress Gretchen Baretto. Farillas says there was no second choice. It was Baretto or no one.

The couple also felt that it was necessary to embark on an aggressive marketing campaign following their decision to get into franchising this year. They are fine-tuning the guidelines for franchising so that they could quickly expand outside Metro Manila.

Baretto was chosen because the owners felt that her fashion style can be closely associated with their brand.

Knowing that marketing is not their core competence, they hired a marketing consultant—Jenni G. Gonzales who worked for Mondragon for seven years. She was also the marketing manager of Splash Manufacturing for three years and has handled skincare products like Shiseido and Extraderm.

"We want the clothes to be aspirations, to look expensive yet be affordable," she says.

Ericson says the negotiations were quick, taking about a week. They declined to reveal the amount Baretto agreed to but sources said it was less than P5 million.

When she got on board, Gonzales also advised the couple on the advantages and disadvantages of getting a celebrity endorser.

"One of the advantages is that there is widespread awareness of the brand; it helps boost top-of-mind recall; and it helps communicate a well-defined brand image," she says.

But she also cautioned the couple.

"If the endorser gets involved in some scandal or immorality issue, it will rub off on the product. It can also be ineffective if the company fails to maximize its decision to get an endorser—if it is not prepared to go for maximum exposure or is not prepared to sustain the campaign," she explains.

The problem sometimes is that a firm decides to get an endorser but because of limited resources, ends up using up the bulk of the budget to pay the endorser, leaving very little for a sustainable marketing campaign.

This may create a negative image. People may get the impression that a firm closed down because there was no sustained campaign after the one big splash at the start.

ERICSON and Roxanne Farillas (inset) got Baretto to endorse Plains and Prints because of her fashion sense. APRIL SON

"And there is also the issue that the company expects the endorser to make miracles for them," Gonzales says, explaining that good products and quality service are a must.

Farillas started Plains and Prints in college. Back then she would have clothes made and then sell these to her classmates.

Her mother, who was in the textile industry, asked her to come up with a brand name and Farillas immediately came up with Plains & Prints, a phrase used to describe cloth.

The name stuck when Farillas set up her first shop in Shoppesville, Greenhills. She, however, admits that people often have a hard time pronouncing the brand. Some call it "pains and pints; or plains and pints."

She opened her shop in 1994, when she was still a sophomore student at De La Salle University studying finance. Then boyfriend Ericson helped and was soon managing the business.

Farillas admits it was hard to juggle school and running a shop but she loved it. She used the money her parents gave her on her debut to start the business. Start-up cost was about P200,000.

Today, the college project 'Plaints & Prints' which also goes by the acronym P&P, has eight branches. Their original staff of eight people has increased to 70.

But since they do subcontracting, they have created jobs for about 200 people.

Farillas admits there is the option to have the clothes made in Hong Kong, which might lower their costs but she says, "What will happen to our employees? They will lose their jobs."

The Farillas also produce a line of maternity clothes called Moms. They hope to diversify into other lines within the next few years

Native coffee in Cordillera . . .

From page C1

like Vietnam literally cut their trees and stopped exporting coffee until the glut dissipates, coffee prices are expected to increase by 2003.

"With the growth of the specialty coffee trade in the United States and in Asia, the quality Arabica market has exploded in the Philippines. This trend started with the advent of the upscale coffee shops and espresso carts. The foreign cafes, such as Starbucks, have also encroached on the local coffee market that in turn hurt the local coffee retailers," Torrejon said.

"This should push the local Arabica sector to get together to create programs to increase production and improve existing quality," he added.

Although the Cordillera produces only 5 percent of the total coffee production in the country, it produces majority of the Arabica variety.

Torrejon said the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization will mean more imported instant coffee coming into the country.

These, however, are taxed at 80 percent to protect the local farmers and instant coffee manufacturers.

The International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency said most of the coffee exported by the Philippines were roasted and ground coffee.

Destination for these specialty coffee are the US, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Caroline Islands, Oman, Switzerland, Germany and Russia. Middle East countries prefer the Excelsa and Liberica varieties.

Valentino Macanes of the Benguet State University said Arabica production in the region was still low because farmers did not practice rejuvenation of their trees, fertilization, integrated pest management, irrigation and other important production and post-production processes.

Macanes said only about 3,500 hectares in the Cordillera are devoted to coffee production. The DA is promoting coffee production particularly in Benguet and Mountain Province.

The agriculture department is coming out with a techno-guide for would-be coffee growers in the Cordillera.

Ananayo said the DA would also give out 19 coffee pulpers to cooperatives involved in coffee production in the region.

The coffee pulper was invented by a certain Mr. Tad-o of Atok, Benguet. Though made of wood, the DA improvised on the pulper by producing a wood-and-metal version worth P15,000.

Tad-o's coffee pulper can remove the pulp of 25 cavans of coffee beans a day, faster than the five cavans accomplished through manual method.

Tax me not

By Ruby Maria Riel-Sison

TAX-FILES

A RACE is won not by the fastest but by the one who keeps on running.

This adage springs forth hope to those caught in a seemingly hopeless quagmire called taxation as exemplified in this interesting case of a taxpayer who was taken down but not necessarily taken out.

This involves a Japanese corporation engaged in trading and construction in the Philippines through its Manila branch. It entered into two turn-key contracts with two Philippine government corporations for the construction of a phosphate fertilizer plant and ammonia storage tanks in the Philippines.

Sometime in August 1986, the Japanese corporation was assessed for alleged deficiency income, branch profit remittance, contractor's and commercial broker's tax arising from two turn-key contracts which were both finished in 1985.

Subject to tax

According to the assessment letter issued to the Japanese corporation, each contract entered into was for a piece of work and since the projects called for the construction and installation of facilities in the Philippines, the entire income therefrom constituted income from Philippine source, hence, subject to internal revenue taxes.

Meanwhile, the government issued Executive Order No. 41 declaring a one-time amnesty covering unpaid income taxes for the years 1981 to 1985 which became effective on Aug. 22, 1986. It disallowed taxpayers with income tax cases already filed in court from availing of the amnesty granted under the said executive order.

On Sept. 26, 1986, the Japanese corporation filed cases in court questioning the validity of the assessment. On Oct. 30, 1986, it availed of the amnesty and filed its tax amnesty return.

On Nov. 17, 1986, the scope and coverage of EO No. 41 was expanded by EO No. 64 to include amnesty on estate and donor's taxes and the tax on business. According to EO No. 64, the immunities and privileges under EO No. 41 are extended to the above-mentioned tax liabilities.

Controversy

Hence, the corporation availed of the benefit under EO No. 64 and filed its supplemental tax amnesty return.

The main controversy in this case lies in the interpretation of the exception to the amnesty coverage under EO Nos. 41 and 64. There are three types of taxes covered by said orders: income tax, branch profit remittance tax and contractor's tax.

The commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue posits that the Japanese corporation is disqualified from availing of the amnesty on income and branch profits remittance tax as provided under EO No. 41 since a case in court was already filed by the Japanese corporation on Sept. 26, 1986.

Hence, it fell within the exception under Section 4(b) of EO No. 41 which disqualifies taxpayers with income tax cases already filed in court as of the effectivity of EO No. 41.

According to the Supreme Court, what EO No. 41 excepts from income tax amnesty are those taxpayers with income tax cases already filed in court as of the effectivity hereof. The point of reference is the date of effectivity of EO No. 41. For a taxpayer to be disqualified, there must have been income tax cases filed in court when EO No. 41 took effect on Aug. 22, 1986.

Not disqualified

In this case, when EO No. 41 became effective, no case has yet been filed by the Japanese corporation. It was only in Sept. 26, 1986 that the corporation filed its case in court.

Hence, it is not disqualified from availing of the amnesty on income and branch profit remittance tax granted by EO No. 41.

The other question, is whether the taxpayer can once again avail of the amnesty on business tax (which includes contractor's tax) granted under EO No. 64.

The answer to this question lies on the interpretation of the exception under Section 4 of EO No. 41.

When EO No. 64 took effect on Nov. 17, 1986, it did not provide for exception to the coverage of the amnesty for business tax unlike EO No. 41.

Instead, Section 8 of EO No. 64 provided that the provisions of EO No. 41, which are not contrary to or inconsistent with EO No. 64, shall remain in full force and effect. Hence, the exceptions to amnesty coverage under Section 4 of EO No. 41 also applied to EO No. 64, including the phrase that excludes taxpayers with income tax cases already filed in court as of the effectivity hereof.

The issue posed before the Supreme Court pertains to the phrase "effectivity hereof."

The taxpayer argued that because of the words "income" and "hereof," then the phrase must pertain to the effectivity of EO No. 41 on Aug. 22, 1986 and not of EO No. 64.

The Supreme Court held otherwise. It said that in view of the amendment introduced by EO No. 64, Section 4 cannot be construed to refer to EO No. 41 and its date of effectivity. The general rule is that an amendatory act operates prospectively. While an amendment is generally construed as becoming a part of the original act as if it had always been contained therein, it may not be given a retroactive effect unless it is so provided expressly or by necessary implication and no vested right or obligations of contract are thereby impaired.

In the instant case, the vagueness in Section 4(b) brought about by EO No. 64 should therefore be construed strictly against the taxpayer. The term "income tax cases" should be read to refer to estate and donor's taxes and tax on business, while the word "hereof" refers to EO No. 64 and not to EO No. 41. When EO No. 64 took effect on Nov. 17, 1986, the Japanese corporation had already filed a case in court. Hence, by the time the Japanese corporation filed its supplementary tax amnesty return in December 1986, it already fell under the exception and was thus disqualified from the availing of the amnesty.

Refused to be taken down, the Japanese corporation continued to argue that it is nevertheless not subject to contractor's tax.

Turn-key

The scope of the works under the contract covered turn-key supply, which included grants of licenses and the transfer of technology and know-how, and the design, engineering, supply and delivery, construction, erection and installation, direction and control of testing, among others. A "turn-key" contract is defined as a job or contract in which the contractor agrees to complete the work of building and installation to the point of readiness for operation or occupancy.

The contract price for the project was divided into three portions, namely, Japanese Yen Portion I, Japanese Yen Portion II and Philippine Pesos Portion.

The division of the price into Japanese Yen Portions I and II and the Philippine Peso Portion under the two contracts corresponds to the two parts into which the contracts were classified—the Foreign Offshore Portion (meaning machines, equipment and services from abroad) and the Philippine Onshore Portion (meaning machines, equipment and services in the Philippines).

In both contracts, the Japanese Yen Portion I corresponds to the Foreign Offshore Portion while the Japanese Yen Portion II and the Philippine Pesos Portion correspond to the Philippine Onshore Portion. It is with regard to the gross receipts from the Foreign Offshore Portion of the two contracts that the liabilities involved in the assessment subject of the case arose.

Contracts

The commissioner of the BIR argued that since the two agreements are turnkey, they call for the supply of both materials and services to the client, they are contracts for a piece of work and are indivisible. The site of the two projects is in the Philippines, and the materials provided and services rendered were all done and completed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines.

Hence, the entire receipts of the Japanese corporation, including its receipts from the Offshore Portion, constitute income from Philippine sources and hence taxable.

The Japanese corporation, however, argued that not all the work were performed in the Philippines because some of them were completed in Japan.

Some of the machines and equipment used were designed, engineered and fabricated by Japanese firms sub-contracted by the Japanese corporation which did the design, fabrication, engineering and manufacture thereof. These materials and equipment were also inspected and tested in Japan prior to its shipment to the Philippines. Furthermore, payments for these materials and equipment were all made in Japan.

Two jurisdictions

The Supreme Court held that clearly, the service of design and engineering, supply and delivery, construction, erection and installation, supervision, direction and control of testing and commissioning, coordination of the two projects involved two taxing jurisdictions.

These acts occurred in two countries—Japan and the Philippines. While the construction and installation works were completed within the Philippines, the evidence is clear that some pieces of equipment and supplies were completely designed and engineered in Japan. These services were rendered outside the taxing jurisdiction of the Philippines and are therefore not subject to contractor's tax.

Thus, although the Supreme Court ruled that the Japanese corporation might not avail of the amnesty on contractor's tax, it was nevertheless declared not liable for the contractor's tax. (Commissioner of Internal Revenue vs. Marubeni Corp., G.R. No. 137377 dated Dec. 18, 2001.)

NEW FAX OF LIFE

Internet-based machines bridge paper and bits

SAN JOSE, California—At Boeing Co., workers no longer spend hours hovering over a fax machine. Instead, the aerospace giant uses the Internet to send 18,000 faxes and receive 15,000 each month via e-mail.

A new crop of sophisticated, networked fax products is gaining ground as corporate technology managers begin to appreciate the convenience and savings.

Internet faxing can involve a fax machine hooked to the Internet, a PC with a fax modem or an Internet connection or, in Boeing's case, a fax service that uses computer servers to do all the heavy lifting and give users remote access to faxing via the Web.

The most compelling feature of the new breed of Internet-ready fax machines is their ability to send or receive faxes as e-mail attachments, catering to the world's deepening shift to digital documents created and stored on computers.

Using the Internet rather than traditional voice telecommunications lines, a single fax can reach any number of people anywhere in the world faster and more cheaply. A fax sent from an Internet-enabled machine can eliminate completely the need and cost of a long-distance phone call.

"We are a global company with offices in 60 countries. Our work force is increasingly mobile, and we need abilities to support that global, mobile work force," said Bev Clark, a Boeing spokesperson.

Boeing first tried Internet faxing last year and liked it.

About 4,000 of its 150,000 employees—primarily those receiving numerous faxes and dealing with legal documents—subscribe to Canadian-based Interstar Technologies' faxserver.com, which along with j2 Global Communications' eFax.com, is among a growing number of Web-based fax services.

The change was part of Boeing's larger goal of being able to access and manage, within five years, all business communications, including e-mail, voice mail and faxes, from a unified messaging system.

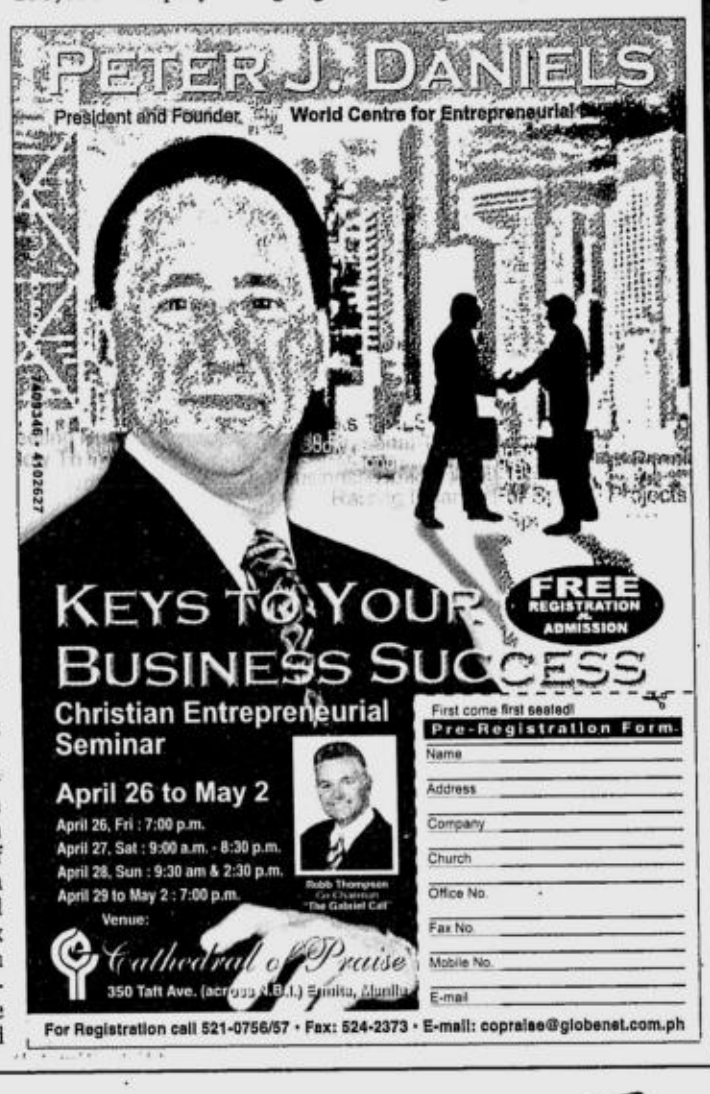
The venerable facsimile machine—first used by the government in the 1930s—scans the image of a document and sends it using an analog telephone connection from point A to point B.

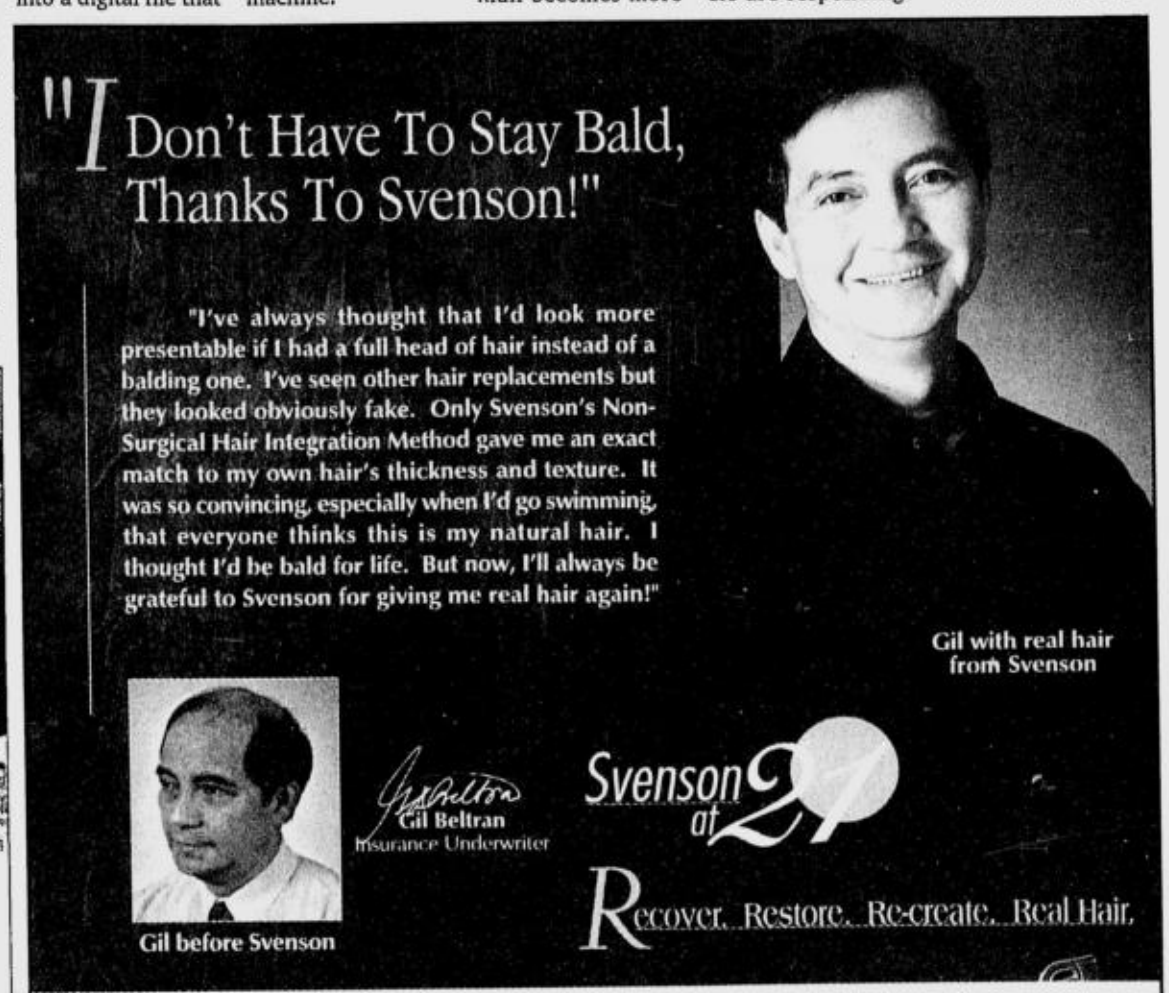
With faxing over the Internet, the image is transformed into a digital file that can be processed by a computer or an Internet-enabled fax machine.

Fax traffic peaked in 2000 and is now on the decline as e-mail becomes more prevalent, analysts say.

Fax machine makers are responding: Market consulting firm CAP Ventures Inc. predicts that in

INTERNET-BASED/ C4





The voice that sold thousands of products

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CONSUMERS usually look at television and radio commercials as unwanted interruptions to their favorite programs. But then there are certain commercials that people want to watch or even look forward to because they are funny or they appeal to the emotions.

These commercials strike a chord with the listeners not only because of the words, but also because of how the words were delivered, and Edgar M. Navalta is one of the experts in this field.

The name may not be familiar to those outside his circle, but certainly many people know his voice.

He has been delivering the lines in Safeguard commercials for the past four years. His popular line goes "*walang proteksyong tulad ng Safeguard.*"

He has also been doing the touch therapy campaign for Vicks, and the cough medicine Loviscol commercials. The "*kahit kailan, kalinisang maaasahan*" line for the Tide commercial is his; and so with Decolgen's "With Decolgen, you have a choice."

Once in a while he also gets the chance to show his singing prowess, like the San Miguel Beer and Ginebra San Miguel commercials delivered in his native Ilokano.

For those who are old enough to remember, he dubbed the voice of Red 1 of the Star Rangers fame and was the dubbing director for the Heidi series.

A broadcasting major from the University of the Philippines, Navalta has been a voice talent for more than 30 years. He stresses that staying in the business takes more than just having a good voice.

"There was a time when radio talents had that big booming voice, but not anymore. Advertising agencies no longer require a very big voice, but an effective voice that can bring their message across," Navalta says.

NAVALTA

He explains that some companies want to adopt a hard sell approach to the product while others want a softer approach. Others want to hit at somebody else's product while others want to explain. He says a good radio talent should be able to modify his or her voice accordingly.

"Just like people who write their stories, we also have to take the target market into consideration. We have to know how they would react to the commercial. We should know how to put our voice in context, depending on the product and the target market," Navalta explains.

He credits his theater training for his ability to modify his voice to deliver a message.

Navalta helped set up the UP Repertory Theater in the early 1970s. He was performing in one of the plays when he was approached by an advertising executive of the defunct Grant ad agency and asked to audition as a voice talent for a Colgate commercial.

"I think I earned P300 at that time. It was a large amount considering that the exchange rate at that time was P4 to $1," he says.

He never stopped doing voice since then, dabbling in movie trailers, dubbing for television and finally, radio commercials.

"The money to be earned is good but you can only survive in this business if you also develop a reputation for being a professional. You must not be a prima donna because advertising agencies spend a lot on studio time, so if you don't come prepared, their costs will go up," Navalta says.

Navalta practices what he preaches by going to the studio on time, and trying to finish the project in as short a time as possible.

When he is not busy doing commercials, he is also involved in pro-bono work such as lending his voice to public service ads produced by the Adboard and the 4As.

A part of his time is also spent in his province of La Union where his parents still tend the tobacco farm where he was raised.

NEW EYEWEAR ENDORSERS
i2i New York, the chain of inexpensive eyewear pieces, recently signed up Donita Rose and Jericho Rosales as its endorsers. Now in its fifth year in the industry, it has pioneered the kiosk type of eyewear retailing. It continues to expand, opening more company-owned stores and franchisees. It is owned by the husband and wife team of Ricco Ocampo and Tina Maristela. Photo shows the Ocampos, Donita Rose and Angeli Pangilinan of Genesis.

Internet-based machines bridge paper and bits

From page C3

2005, more than 60 percent of all 200-page-plus-capacity office fax machines sold will be Internet-enabled, up from less than 5 percent in 2001.

"E-mail will continue to increase, and telephone fax transmissions will continue to decrease, and this is the great bridging product that combines the phone and e-mail lines," said Paul Wharton, a Panasonic marketing manager.

Internet fax machines, such as Panasonic's newest Panafax DX-800, can receive image files via a phone line while also sending them over a network connection. Scanned paper documents can be sent to e-mail addresses over the Internet. Users can program e-mail addresses into the "autodial" list of machines.

In most cases, if the sender of a fax—whether it's a hard copy from a fax machine or a digital file from a computer desktop—is transmitting to an old-fashioned analog fax machine, he or she must still address it correctly to a fax phone number.

Some higher-end machines never even print out a fax, converting all documents to digital files instead. Time-consuming manual deliveries of faxes are thus replaced by electronic delivery over corporate networks.

All Internet fax machines also handle traditional faxing.

Panasonic, the leading provider of Internet fax machines, plans to expand its I-fax line from two to nine models—or half of its fax product line—this year.

Still, analysts don't see paper facsimiles becoming extinct.

Many people still rely heavily on paper records—from warehouse purchase orders to local police reports—and many companies remain concerned about the legality of digital documents.

A contract that is signed and faxed is considered legally binding. But if the document is e-mailed, it requires an authentic digital signature, a technology analysts say has yet to pass muster in the courts.

Though the 750 lawyers at San Francisco-based Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison LLP are big e-mail users, critical documents still wind through the law firm's central fax processing center at the rate of up to 1,000 faxes a day.

Jonathan Wong, Brobeck's chief information officer, nevertheless predicts his firm and other big law firms will try Internet faxing within a year.

Internet fax providers are adding security measures such as the encrypted passwords enabled by Panasonic's newest machine for e-mail faxes.

Fax technology consultant Maury Kauffman has this take on the fax evolution:

"In the long run, regardless of how much outbound faxing we do, all of our faxes will come in our e-mail box." ***AP***

What makes a successful consumer salesman?

EVERY day we are likely to read dozens of articles on the Internet and even from self-help books and newspapers offering varied tips on how to be successful in our chosen field of endeavor.

But being successful is quite fleeting especially when there are hindrances on the road leading to it. It is something to be pursued or worked on day and night before you finally get to taste its sweet flavor and practically enjoy all the other perks that come with it.

But some would still say that being successful is now quantifiable in many ways. Like in the case of consumer sales people, success is traditionally measured by the achievement of sales quotas. But if you dig more into it, you will slowly realize and probably ask: what really makes a successful consumer salesman?

As business books continue to reiterate, selling requires a lot of planning and time-proven skills to make a product move from its shelf/rack. But more than what reference books suggest, getting it straight from salesmen and women who toil several hours of the day and even nights would serve as valuable inputs especially for neophyte salesmen/women out there.

GILLETTE Philippines recently held its "Man of the Year" for 2001 awards with Vicente Bringas (2nd from right) bagging the top plum. With him are (from left) Romano Basilio, field sales specialist for North Luzon; Patrick Cuaresma, field salesman for South Luzon; Lorna Araos, key accounts manager; and Ferdinand de la Cruz, district sales manager for North Luzon.

"Secrets of the trade"

For Vicente "Bong" Bringas, 30, "sheer hard work and prayers" are his secrets in making a good sale. As a distributor sales coordinator, who is assigned in northwestern Mindanao (which basically starts in Cagayan de Oro and ends in Zamboanga Peninsula), Bringas has beaten the odds in conducting his business well even in war-torn Basilan and Jolo. He has been a salesman for 12 years and is a dedicated sales performer of Gillette Philippines—makers of well-known consumer brands such as "Rubie" blades, "Oral-B" oral care products and "Duracell" batteries and cells, among others.

Another Gillette district sales manager (North Luzon), Ferdinand de la Cruz, 36, cites dedication and love for one's work to succeed. "You should also be honest in your affairs so as to meet your targets," he added. De la Cruz has been in sales for 12 years already.

Rapport with wholesalers and retailers is another secret that 31-year-old Romano Basilio—Gillette field sales specialist for North Luzon—said during an exclusive interview. More than ensuring that the stocks are there, Basilio mentioned that cultivating one's connections with customers will make them notice your dedication to your job.

At the same time, Lorna Araos, 48, Gillette's key accounts manager, reiterated that developing a very good relationship with your accounts plays a major role in one's overall sales performance. "The only way to develop that relationship is if you have credibility. You likewise get the respect of your buyers, of the people, of the brand and of the stores," she said.

The playing field for sales at Gillette has been leveled with the inclusion of two neophytes in the roster of its best performing sales force. Dindin de Borja, 25, key accounts specialist, pointed out that knowing the business well contributes to being effective in what you do. This De La Salle alumnus likewise adds: "If your customer trusts you, I think there's no problem with whatever suggestions you give the wholesalers/retailers that will also help them grow their business."

For Patrick Cuaresma, 22, Gillette's field salesman for South Luzon, versatility is also very significant in conducting one's sales strategy. Dealing with different types of people, ranging not only from wholesalers to retailers but also *from sari-sari* store owners to merchandisers, Chinese businessmen and even employees of big companies is part of being involved in sales. "You should be able to adjust yourself to anyone," newly graduated Patrick stressed out.

Right qualities

For first-time sales practitioners, the Gillette sales force offers some valuable insights on the right things that a good salesman/woman should do:

- Develop teamwork. Each member is responsible to the group.
- Practice honesty, persistence and determination. These qualities will keep you on track with your goals in overall sales.
- Develop your people skills. Being able to relate to different types of people will help in conducting your business especially when assigned in remote places.
- Be results-oriented. Bottom line is you have to produce. You should produce the required numbers to reach your sales targets.
- Know how to communicate your ideas. You should know how to expound your ideas that would translate to sales.
- Be customer-focused. There should be a win-win situation for you and your customers.

Singapore beats out Hong Kong as best Asian place for business

HONG KONG—Singapore has edged out Hong Kong as Asia's best place to do business, a prominent think tank said Wednesday.

Hong Kong held the top spot from 1997-2001 in the reports by the Economist Intelligence Unit—but has now slipped because of adverse political trends, a labor force ill-suited for high-skilled jobs, a rising budget deficit and competition from mainland China.

The think tank predicted Hong Kong's business environment will decline from 2002-2006, although conditions for doing business here will still be "very good" and Singapore will only hold a slight lead.

"The competitive environment is extremely intense," said Daniel Franklin, editorial director at the intelligence unit. "There are other cities, other countries, that are just as eager as Hong Kong to grab a share of the business."

Singapore's stronger public finances, its policies toward private enterprise and competition were its key advantages, the survey said.

The Hong Kong government had no immediate comment.

Asian economies are generally ranked behind those in North America and Western Europe.

The study contended that Hong Kong's political climate had shown the greatest deterioration. It cited close ties between government and big business, declining morale in the civil service and uncertainty over planned political reforms.

"The quality of the work force—in particular, the ability to adapt to the new skills required in a knowledge-based economy—also remains a major worry," it said.

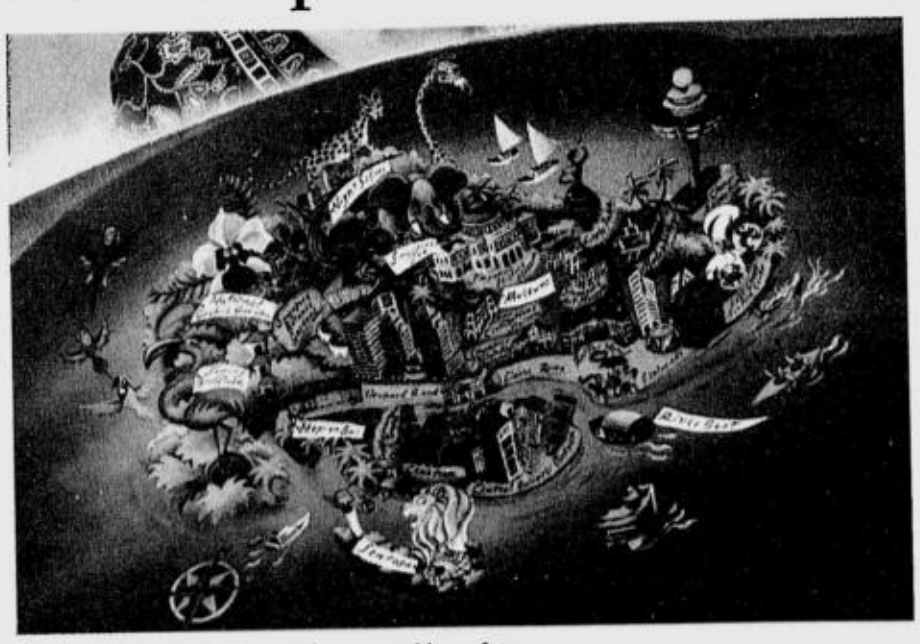
The intelligence unit's rankings took into account 70 factors, including levels of political risk and corruption, key economic indicators, foreign exchange regulations, infrastructure and tax policies.

Pakistan was the worst Asian country for business, though Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia were not much better, the report said.

Mainland China was ranked 12th out of the 16 Asian countries covered by the report. China's entry into the World Trade Organization was encouraging foreign investment, but changes in its tax system would eliminate some advantages now given to foreign companies, it said.

The transition to a younger generation of communist leaders, expected to come at a Communist Party congress this autumn, was unlikely to significantly affect the economy.

"It won't make much of a difference. They don't have much room to maneuver," said Paul Cavey, the intelligence unit's senior economist for Greater China. ***AP***



SINGAPORE draws business because of its safety.

Banking on Filipinos in mainland China

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

METROBANK Shanghai's country manager Duncan Wang is in the office by 7:30 each morning. He is usually the first among the bank's 12 employees to arrive. He leaves about 7:30 p.m. even if banking hours are only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The long hours are necessary because Wang's job is tough. He has to attract Chinese businessmen to put their money in a Filipino bank, and at the same time he has to take care of Filipino investments in China's industrial capital.

In a recent trip to China, Business Friday talked to Wang, who also holds the rank of first vice president, about the first months of operations of the first Filipino bank in Shanghai.

"Being the pioneer is always difficult—you pave the way for yourself and for others too," he says, "rules for foreign banks are much stricter than Chinese banks. Still, being first has its advantages."

During the bank's opening last August, no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo graced the occasion. Metrobank brought in over 150 guests, including politicians and businessmen from Manila to see for themselves how one of China's most industrial cities is growing.

And Shanghai is impressive. Development started less than 10 years ago but the infrastructure was put in place only about two years ago. Yet it is already considered one of the most dynamic cities in the region.

The Pudong Airport is huge, even if air traffic is slow at the moment. Highways abound with a lot of provisions for further expansion. Commercial establishments litter its skyline and are ready for occupancy. Mobile phones abound so communication is easy.

Wang says the bank is likely to adopt the strategy of bringing Filipino businessmen in Shanghai to show them the investment potentials.

"Maybe this year we will do this kind of promotion," he says.

It is a fact that China is the growth center of the world. It has the infrastructure, the people and the huge market.

Wang suggests Filipinos can also benefit from this, particularly by investing in refineries.

"The Philippines can export raw materials like agricultural products and produce higher value goods because China has the technology, and the labor cost is low," he says.

There are at present two Filipino firms in China—one manufactures cooking oil while the other makes Oishi, a popular prawn cracker snack.

MARKETING STRATEGY

The low labor cost in particular has attracted most of the world's biggest firms to set up shop in the country. And the huge availability of workers is not likely to increase the labor costs soon.

China's entry into the World Trade Organization, which opens up the market and lowers the tariff on some imported products, also presents some opportunities, according to Wang.

He sees the bank's role as that of adviser and conduit. "Investors should be familiar with the environment and the tax system. Foreigners here can conduct any kind of business although there are restrictions," Wang says.

Metrobank owner George SK Ty is smart enough to know that it may take a while for Filipino businessmen to realize the big business potential in China, so he is also tapping into another market—the Taiwanese.

There are about 300,000 Taiwanese in Shanghai versus 200 Filipinos.

Wang himself is Taiwanese who spent 20 years with Citibank in Taipei. Ty personally chose him to man the Shanghai office because of his extensive banking experience in Taipei. The taipan wants to capture some of the Taiwanese businesses. He himself has extensive holdings in Taiwan.

Wang feels at home in Shanghai as "the environment is the same as Taipei. I don't think there is a big difference."

For staffing, they got locals and Wang says they had to start from zero because they recruited locals who did not have banking experience and had to be trained in computer hardware and software.

METROBANK chair George Ty (left) with Duncan Wang

THE ad should rise above clutter.

Build . . .

From page C6

voice talents deliver hard-selling lines that consumers do not normally do. To really rise above the clutter, try being simple and act the ways consumers would. An ad can sometimes create the loudest noise if it is believable and done intelligently. Your ad should not necessarily be always screaming and yelling.

Use of white space

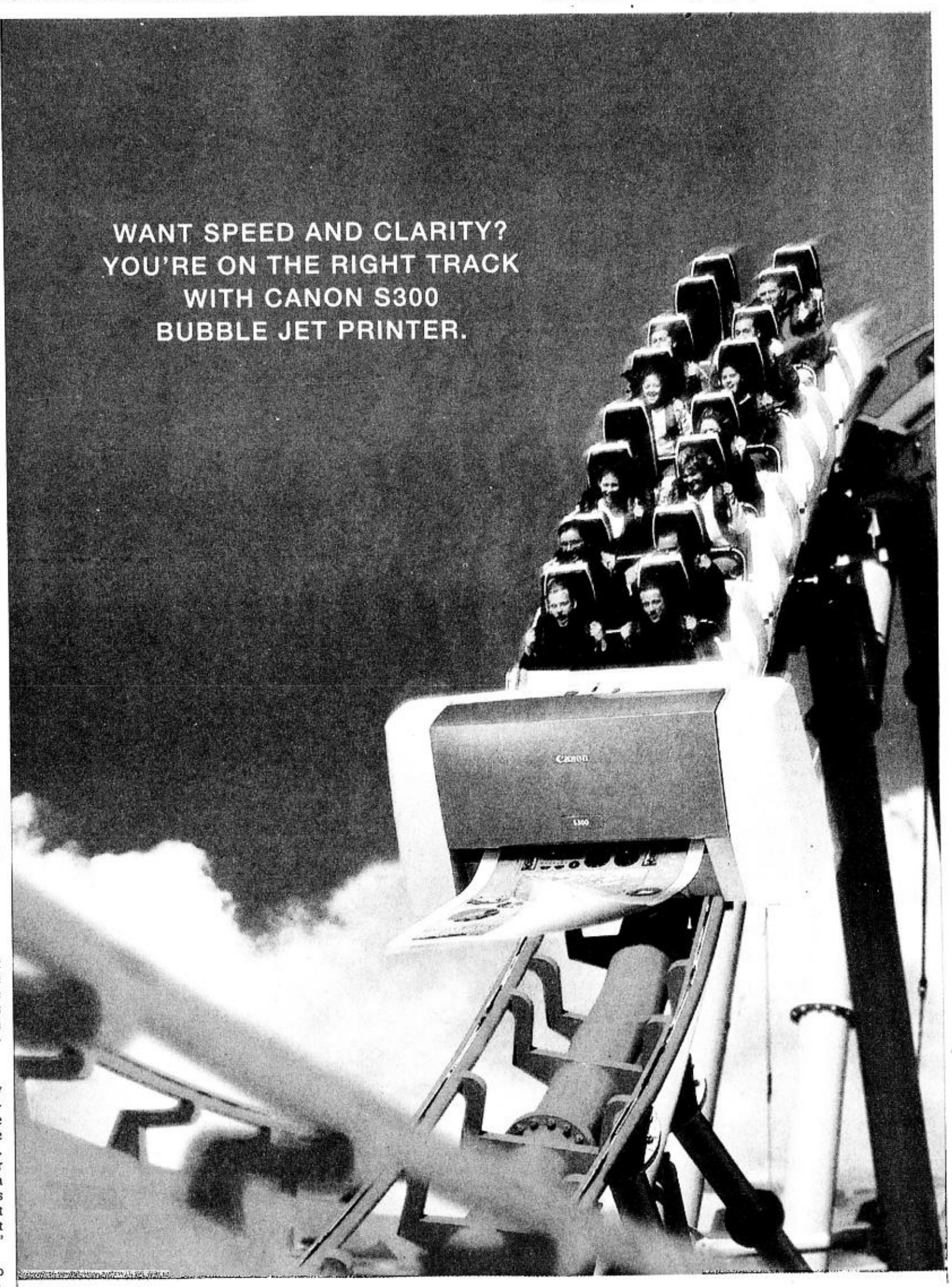
Some advertisers are fond of filling every white space in the ad. White space is an important layout element and focuses the reader's attention to your ad. It makes the headline and visual stand out, so to speak. When a crowded ad is necessary, use your imagination to group or arrange them in a way that is pleasing to the eye so that readers can find their way through them easily. Let your white space work for your brand. Do not use them to enlarge "introducing" "new" "only" and price bubble clichés.

Some advertisers terrorize their agencies to make everything in the ad as big as their ego. Tell them that ads with distinctive art direction usually enjoy higher readership than run-of-the-mill ads. Ads that are distinctively different from your competitors' usually enjoy higher awareness. The same also applies to ads with a consistent "look" because readers usually recognize them even before they read them.

Some advertisers who are after the mass market tend to cheapen their ads by making them look cluttered and hodge-podgey. They forget that they have a powerful tool to improve the taste of their market and the image of the brand they are selling. Just because your market belongs the low-income bracket does not mean you have to feed them with bad advertising.

You are only telling them that you have a bad product to sell.

When you do beautiful ads, you get a brand that is firmly framed in your consumers' minds.



The Canon S300 Bubble Jet printer achieves a meteoric 11ppm for monochrome prints and an equally remarkable 7.5ppm for glorious Canon colour. With Canon's New 'Microfine Droplet Technology' ink ejection system, the S300 delivers remarkable photo realistic prints at 2400 x 1200dpi resolution. An ultra-fine 5 picolitre ink droplet is achievable using this technology, resulting in precise ink control for high quality images with minimal graininess. Like most technology built with speed in mind, the printer is compact and streamlined. There's also a new engine that boasts unprecedented levels of performance. Simply, press 'print' and leave the rest of the ride up to the S300 Bubble Jet. Only the speed will be a blur.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS Friday

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002

Build and sell your brands with beautiful ads

By Roger Pe

BEAUTIFUL ads are those that romance its prime target to the hilt. The principle of romance is the same as winning a friend or wooing a girl—you want to make the relationship last.

Beautiful means stunning. The ad must hit you in your guts with a message delivered like no one has ever done.

Many ads fail to register in the consumers' minds because their messages are not compelling enough: they are mouthing their competitors' claims, lack insight or have no new relevant things to say.

Beautiful ads should be executed in a fresh and interesting way: Appropriate use of fonts can do wonders to your layout.

Junk mix-matching them for no apparent reason will only make your ad look horrible.

Outstanding photography should also be employed to make your visuals leap out of the pages you are advertising in. Many art directors often take this for granted that they end up with an ad that is good in concept but dies in execution.

Beautiful means intrusive—one that gives your prospect a love-at-first-sight feeling of sort and a decisive 'I-am-ready-to-marry-you' acceptance. Beautiful means not offending her taste and decency. Your mission is to attract and sweep her off her feet, not to seduce or titillate with vulgarity.

When romancing, do you suffocate your loved one with unnecessary, ostentatious display of affection? Some brands employ mercenary tactics just to win consumers to their side. To them, persuasion becomes lust, they almost end up raping the consumer.

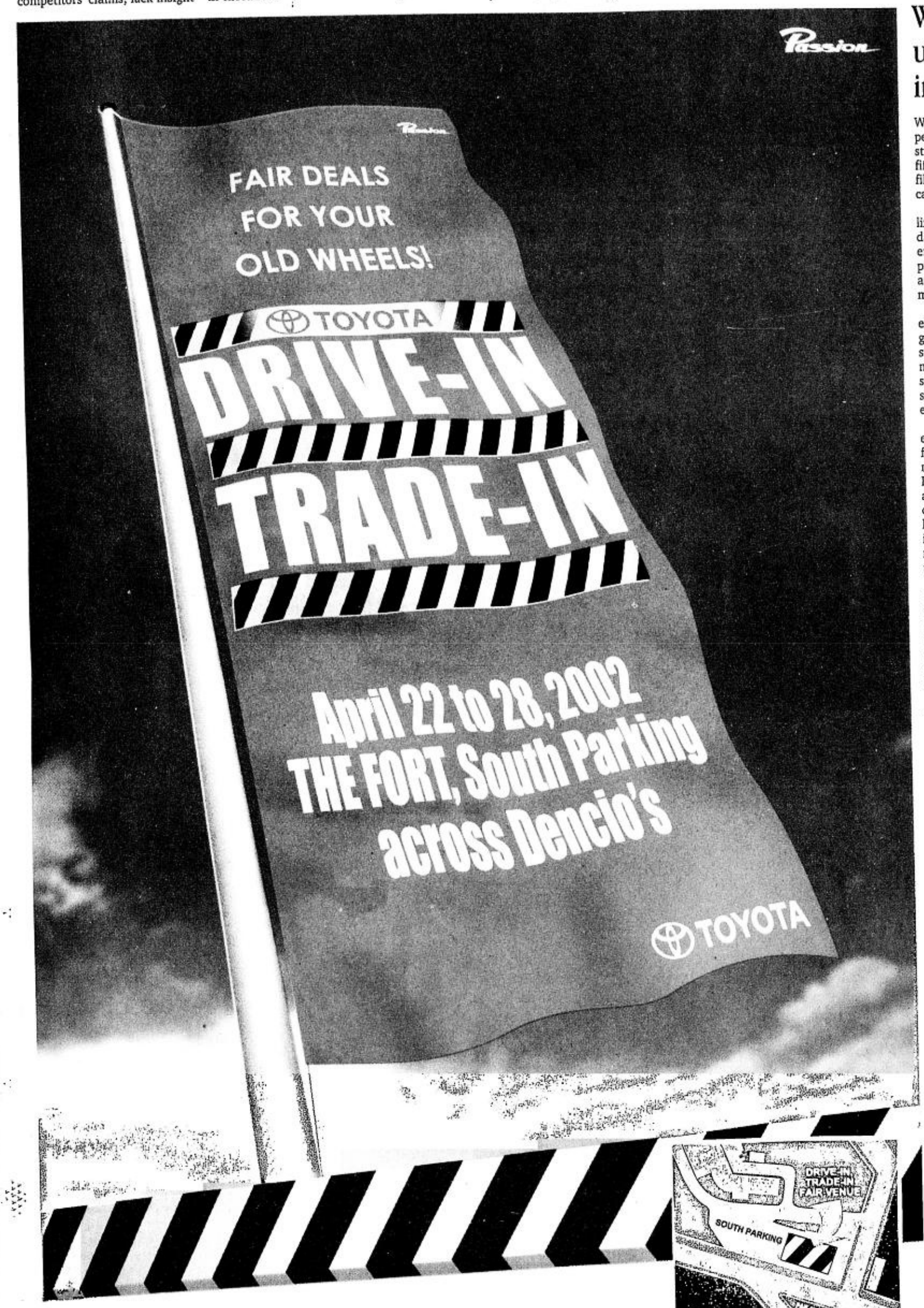
Many consumer and brand relationships do not last because the former is 'coerced' and the romance is not given time to develop and grow.

They say for one to rise above the clutter in advertising, it must create noise. In the cacophony of things, the noise created by some advertisers sometimes becomes exactly just like that—a noise the consumer does not want to hear over and over again.

How many times do you hear

BUILD/ C6

A LOVELY Dolce & Gabbana ad



At the Toyota Drive-In Trade-In Fair, you'll not only drive away looking good in your brand new Toyota vehicle, you'll drive away feeling great, too. That's because we guarantee to give you a fair and honest appraisal for your old car.

Here's how you can join:
1. The Trade-in activity is open to all Toyota buyers.
2. Drive your vehicle* to the Toyota Drive-In, Trade-In Fair and we'll appraise its value.
3. The amount will serve as your initial downpayment for the Toyota vehicle of your choice whether through financing or cash purchase.
4. All trade-in customers will automatically receive a free ₱10,000 value certificate which can be used as an additional subsidy for downpayment or as cash discount.

*Toyota and non-Toyota, subject to vehicle qualification

Plus you get these fantastic values:
- On-the-spot credit approval
- Special and affordable financing rates
- Giveaways

TOYOTA

It's a win-win deal for you! Join Toyota's Drive-In, Trade-In Fair!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0134, Series of 2002

Worldwide study uncovers trends in affluent spending

WHAT is affluence? And what do affluent people expect from the brands they buy? A new study by Euro RSCG Worldwide, the world's fifth largest advertising agency network, profiled affluent households in 12 countries and came up with some interesting answers.

WORK WINS: Achieving a more equitable life/work balance is a goal of many people today, but it's not a top priority for modern effluents. For these people, professional accomplishments create a deep sense of satisfaction, and many of them are unwilling to compromise prestige and status for more free time.

EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING: Modern effluents value experiences more than tangible goods. They deem collecting knowledge and stories—typically through travel and events—more important than accumulating possessions. They are also active in intellectual pursuits, placing great value on being informed, educated, and interesting.

"Their obsession with 'collecting' experiences and conversational currency directly affects the products that affluent consumers are most likely to purchase," said Marian Salzman, Euro RSCG's director for Strategy and Planning and manager of the study. "Brands that involve consumers before the purchasing phase are likely to win sales. Invitation-only events, limited-edition products, and other types of experiential marketing are key to capturing the attention of today's affluent consumers."

ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY: The vast majority of affluent consumers are concerned with conserving energy and natural resources. Even those who claim not to be environmentalists admit feelings of guilt over wasteful practices. Voluntary simplicity appeals to those who complain about having "too much stuff," and respondents value quality over quantity.

How does the changing face of affluence manifest itself at the retail counter?

Ostentation is a thing of the past. From cars to homes, clothes to home furnishings, simple, chic styles are in demand. This doesn't mean that today's effluents are buying fewer luxuries and indulgences. In fact, the world luxury goods market was worth just under $170 billion in 2000, up some 9 percent in real terms since 1996. And it continues to grow. The difference: today's indulgences appear less lavish and are purchases to enjoy, not impress.

Today's effluents are looking for understated, quality luxury and elegant design. Products with high endurance and timeless appeal speak to the desire to move away from "disposable consumerism."

The high degree of social consciousness that characterizes today's affluent is leading to an increased emphasis on corporate citizenship. Brands that are associated with humanitarianism appeal to consumers looking to alleviate guilt, and respondents say they try to avoid buying products from companies they deem dishonest, uncaring, or immoral.

In sharp contrast with the stereotype of the aloof, self-centered rich of yesteryear, today's effluents tend to focus on their place in the world, aware of things and people outside themselves and spending money to ensure the happiness of others. Moral seriousness and integrity are major motivating factors, and companies that project this image are more likely to connect with affluent consumers. Affluents recognize that the brands they buy send a message about who they and what they value; companies seeking to attract affluent consumers should promote loyalty, trustworthiness, integrity, and sincerity—qualities most effluents find admirable.

METHODOLOGY: To understand modern effluents and their impact on culture and commerce, Euro RSCG Worldwide undertook a study of 48 affluent households in 12 countries: Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the United States. The findings are based on interview responses and the results of extensive secondary research.

Euro RSCG Worldwide, the world's fifth-largest advertising agency network, is a global network of 221 agencies located in 75 countries throughout Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East. Euro RSCG provides advertising, marketing services, corporate communications, and interactive solutions to global, regional and local clients.

ELBA ITALY
RANGE HOODS

FRIDAY, APRIL ...
Trend Spotting
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◇ Subsection Editor Marge C. Enriquez
D1

Tag-unit Treat!
Save up to P33!
A dozen donuts of any variety for only P120
DUNKIN' DONUTS

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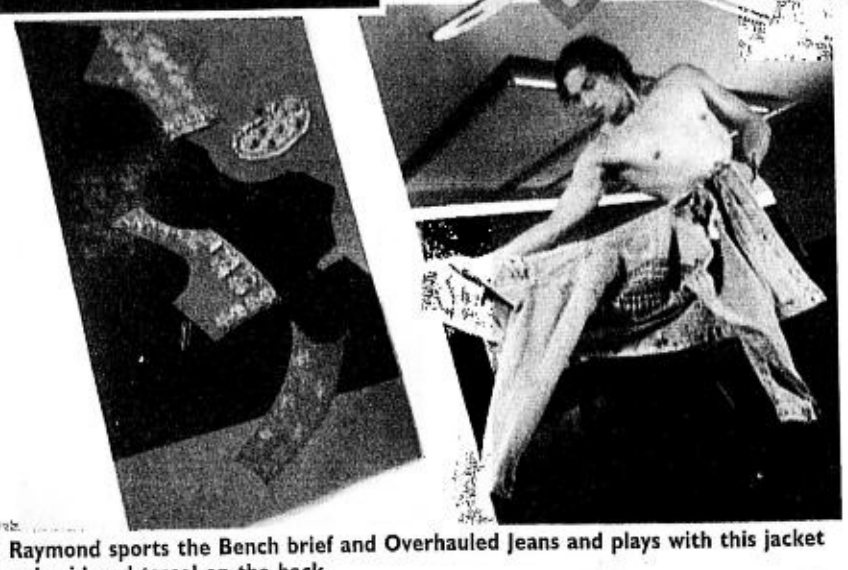

OLE! Raymond sports the Bench brief and Overhauled Jeans and plays with this jacket with embroidered tassel on the back.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Edwin Tuyay
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

THERE'S no use reinventing the wheel, but you can certainly put a new spin to it.

This is what Bench Denims has done to the basic five-pocket jeans. With unconventional designer Ernest Santiago creating a high-fashion collection, the denims never looked so classy and fun since the hippie era.

Bench Denims introduced its fashion line called Overhauled Jeans with great success. These styles are made for both the Bench and

TRADITIONAL/ p.D6

Know how sick in 1 second.
ARIVA 1-Second Digital Thermometer
Call: 724-59-07
Available at: Watson's in all SM Supermalls Nationwide

Free Nokia 3310 with your new Citibank card

Now, you can tell your friends and family you have a new Citibank credit card by texting or calling them from your brand new and FREE Nokia 3310!

The country's largest credit card issuer is giving away a Nokia 3310 cellular phone to all approved applicants of Citibank Visa and MasterCard. To qualify, simply apply for a Citibank Silver Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Visa Platinum or the Citibank Clear MasterCard on or before July 15, 2002, and if you are approved, you can bring home the Nokia phone.

With your Citibank card, you will receive a special voucher which you can present to selected Smart cellular phone dealers in exchange for a Nokia 3310. The list of authorized dealers are printed at the back of the voucher.

Your free Nokia 3310 comes with a free 64K Super SIM card, waived registration fees and a pre-approved Smart Gold Plan 600. This plan will entitle you to free 85 minutes talk time and 225 text messages for an affordable P600 monthly fee. Your subscription fees for the first year will be automatically enrolled under the PayLite Installment Plan, payable over 12 months at 0% interest.

Moreover, your Smart Gold Plan subscription will be enrolled in Citibank's FastLink and Mobile Banking services. This means your monthly Smart bills will be charged to your credit card account via FastLink, or you can pay using your cellular phone with the Mobile Banking facility. Either way, you don't have to leave your home or office to visit Smart payment centers.

This promotion gives approved applicants of Citibank credit cards the chance to own one of the most popular cellular phone models in the market today. Among the Nokia 3310's outstanding features are its advanced messaging capabilities and predictive text input, voice dialing, picture messaging, vibra alert, and many more, encased in a sleek, stylish and interchangeable frame.

On top of these exciting mobile phone features, newly-approved Citibank Clear, Gold and Platinum credit cardholders will have access to a range of benefits such as exclusive discounts, perks and other privileges in hundreds of establishments around the country. Citibank Silver, Gold and Platinum cardmembers also get the chance to accumulate points per usage and exchange them for free gifts of their choice under the Citibank Rewards program.

Another value feature is the PayLite Installment Plan which cardholders can tap anytime for purchases of at least P5,000. PayLite affords cardmembers the choice of settling their bills from as short as three months to as long as 24 months, depending on their cash flexibility.

Plus, there are the global conveniences of owning a Citibank credit card, such as round-the-clock customer service with the 24-hour CitiPhone, acceptance in over 21 million establishments in more than 300 countries as well as access to cash advances from over 600,000 ATMs worldwide. To know more about this exciting promotion, simply dial 423-3000.

100 YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES
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Apply for a Citibank card and get a FREE Nokia 3310

Get a FREE Nokia 3310 with every approved Citibank credit card.* Application period is from April 15 to July 15, 2002. Your free cellphone comes with a pre-approved Smart Gold Standard (Plan 600). Your monthly Smart cellphone fees will be automatically charged to your Citibank credit card for your convenience.

See application form inserts for more details.

*Applicable only to Citibank Silver MasterCard and VISA, Citibank Gold MasterCard and VISA, and Citibank Clear card.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1424, Series of 2002.

Call 423-3000
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☑ Yes, I want a Citibank credit card!
Name _____
Contact Nos. _____
Preferred time to be called _____
PLEASE FAX TO 423-3888

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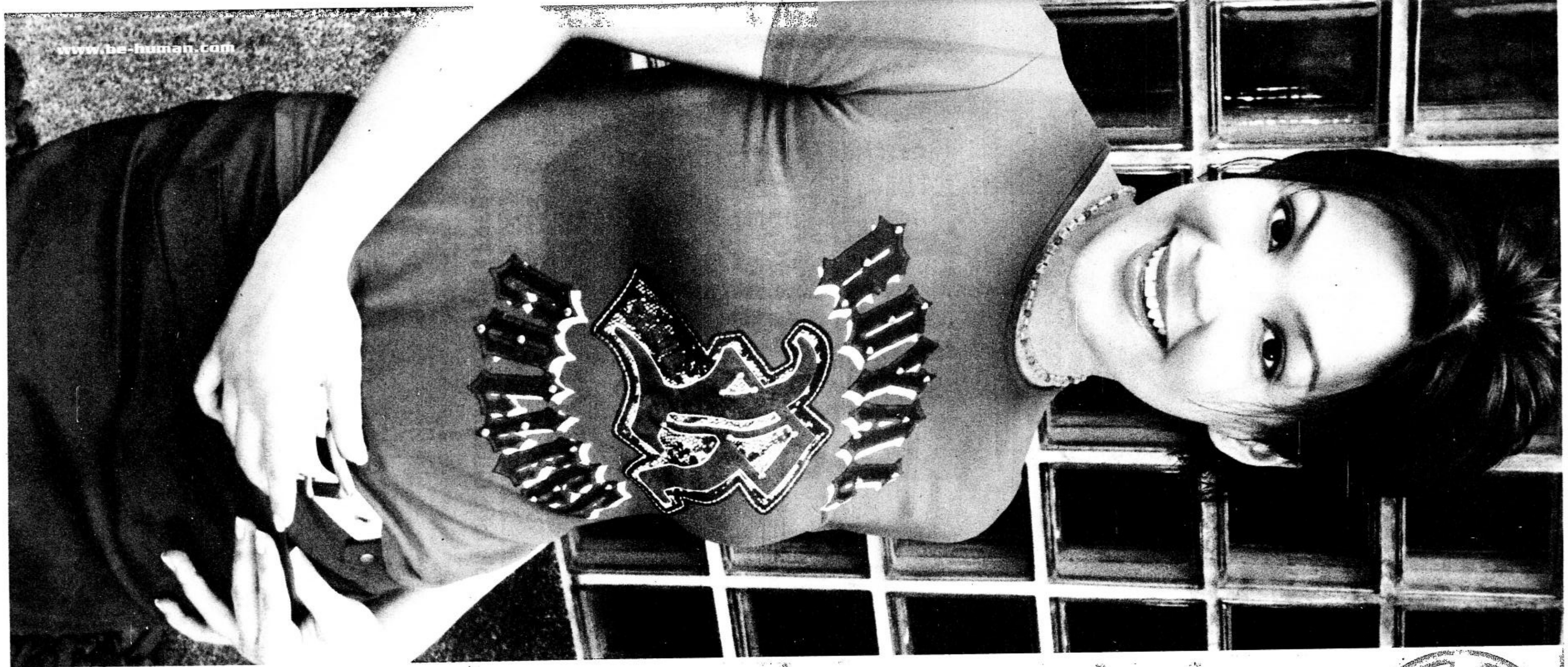

HUMAN

alternative clothing and lifestyle

FCCP promotes development of performing and visual arts

THE FRIENDS for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) hosts annually the "Artists and Friends Cocktail Musicale" to promote the development of the performing and visual arts. This year, the event will be held at the home of Italian Ambassador and Mme. Umberto Colesanti at 6 p.m., April 29.

SEMINAR. Istavin Private Limited (Singapore), the official distribution arm of Learning Media, New Zealand, will hold a series of seminars in Manila focusing on literacy programs and livelihood opportunities that the programs offer. The series, "Turning Books Alive," is organized by Achieve Education Facilitation Services. Teachers, entrepreneurs, parents and students can attend the seminars free of charge. Three one-hour public seminars will be held at 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on May 1. Call 713-9916 or (0917) 918-0126.

FITNESS EVENT. The Fitness First Health Club's "Saturday Scramble Series" kicks off April 27 with "Mad Dash 3K" fun run. Participants can win a trip to Boracay and various gift certificates. A breakfast buffet party at The Enterprise food park awaits all fun run finishers. Registration starts at 6 a.m. Call 813-0761.

WORKSHOP. The Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia-Pacific will hold the Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops April 29-May 17. Instructors include Roy Iglesias, Leo Abaya, Boy Yniguez, Jeffrey Jeturian, Chichi Robles, Ray Junia, Salvii Casino, Lynett Villariba, Neil Doloricon, Noel Lim, Boo Kyler and Giggi Garcia. Call 925-1915/16.

ANNIVERSARY BALL. The Batikan Club, the oldest sociocivic club in Rosario, Batangas, will hold its 51st anniversary ball 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Don Antonio Luancing Memorial Plaza. To be proclaimed Miss Batikan 2002 is Karen C. Cuartero, a 19-year-old communication arts student at the University of Santo Tomas.

SEMINAR. ProActive Center for Training holds its Managing a Restaurant/

GOINGS-ON

Canteen Seminar-Workshop 1-5 p.m., April 29-May 8, at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC. Call (0919) 550-0601.

HOMECOMING. The Ateneo de Tuguegarao will hold its alumni homecoming April 27-28 at the Ivory Hotel in Tuguegarao City. Hosts this year are classes 1952 (Golden Jubilarians) and 1962 (Ruby Jubilarians). Call Bong at 523-3983 or Freddie at 741-0611.

SHOW. Dulaang Talyer stages "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan" at the Makati Park and Garden Amphitheater at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow. The amphitheater is located at Barangay West Rembo, Fort Bonifacio in front of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Makati. Admission is free. "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan" is a biting musical comedy by National Artist for Theater/Literature Rolando S. Tinio about the rich and poor. Call 896-2464.

DANCE FORUM. Myra Beltran presents "Dance Forum," a series of multisite performances at 10 p.m. today at Sanctum, Intramuros, Manila; 10 p.m., May 1, Big Sky Mind, New Manila, QC; and 4 p.m., May 5, Pinto Art Gallery, Antipolo. Aside from Beltran, the series will also feature Katherine Sanchez and Donna Miranda. Admission is free. Call (0917) 996-4339 or (0917) 836-5591.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT. The Little Gym (TLG) goes native with such activities as "Paint the Vinta Village" and "Challenge at Mount Apo." The gym will give discounts up to 10 percent for those enrolling on or before May 19, for the June-August quarter.

Call 815-1735/79 (Makati), 637-2463/64 (Shangri-La), 929-9013/18 (Quezon City) or 850-4060/61 (Alabang).

SPECIAL TREAT. Maya Kitchen, National Bookstore and Anvil Publishing are offering a special treat for homemakers. The "A Happy Mom, A Happy Cook!" promo is ongoing until May 14. Customers who buy P100 worth of Maya Kitchen cookbooks at selected National Bookstore branches will get a chance to win half-day cooking classes and Maya oven toaster mixes and aprons. All cooking classes are held at the Maya Culinary Arts Center at the 7/F Liberty Building, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

We know that life at home can be tough. Make it easy with the convenience of **ABC Electro**, an exclusive line of quality household appliances using German technology, and the touch of warmth of **Galanz**, a comprehensive range of fine microwave ovens. They're top-of-the-line yet affordable home appliances specially designed for you.

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where's the G

G People set the rhythm of summer fun... whatever you're into, wherever you are!

CLUBBERS PARTY ALL-NIGHT

» Bar Raid Circuit

Hook up with the fun-loving, adventurous Globe G People as they make rounds of the hottest bars across the country! Free drinks for Globe subscribers spotted with a G sticker! Join the G hunt to win exciting G gift certificates. Answer G trivia correctly or fetch G items in "Bring Me Game" for more sizzling surprises.

metro manila

Makati,	***April 26***	> Venezia / Wasabi / Streetlife / Hard Rock / Bedrock
	May 24	> Detour / Gerry's / Grilla / Che / Mati
Libis,	***May 3***	> Pier One / Po Na Na / Blue Onion / Gilligan's / Sibil
Malate,	***May 17***	> Bedrock / Indiana Café / Larry's Bar / Arkdia / Taza Bar
bacolod	***April 26***	> Twenty-One Bar and Restaurant / Quorum Disco KTV / Mo2 Mexican Bar and Restaurant / North Bar and Restaurant / Azul Sanctuary
iloilo	***April 27***	> Buana Bar and Restaurant / Con Van Bar and Restaurant/ Barracks Bar and Restaurant / Jungle Bar and Restaurant / Salsa Bar and Restaurant
davao	***May 3-4***	> Barcelona / East St. Marce Retro Bar / Grasshopper / The Summit Bar / Asian Fusion, Taboan / Capt's Bar, Taboan
cebu	***May 10-11***	> Fuel / Vudu / High Life / Juke Box Resto Bar / Yo! Latino

» Street Bash *Tomas Morato, April 30*

G People groove with ABS-CBN Talents at "Fiesta Para sa Kinabukasan". Enjoy great games and stunning surprises as you get together with all these celebrities.

FAMILY TREATS AND TRIPS

» Hot Discounts, Palawan, *April 19-May 31*

Douse the heat in Palawan! Flash your Globe Handyphone and enjoy discounts at the following:

Club Noah > 15% OFF on regular rates; 5% OFF on promo rates

Dive Link Resort, Coron > 7% OFF on regular rates

» Family Water Fun @ Splash Island, *May 25*

Take a dip in a group of 3 or more. Show your Globe Handyphone and one of you gets in for free. Get caught with a G sticker to win fabulous freebies.

Sony Ericsson

SIEMENS Mobile

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METRO MANILA • CEBU • DAVAO • ILOILO
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April 26 – May 31

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Flash your GENTXT card to enjoy hip treats and cool discounts on select partner establishments.

Manila

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Pier One Bar Grill > 10% OFF on food and drinks, on cash; 5% on card
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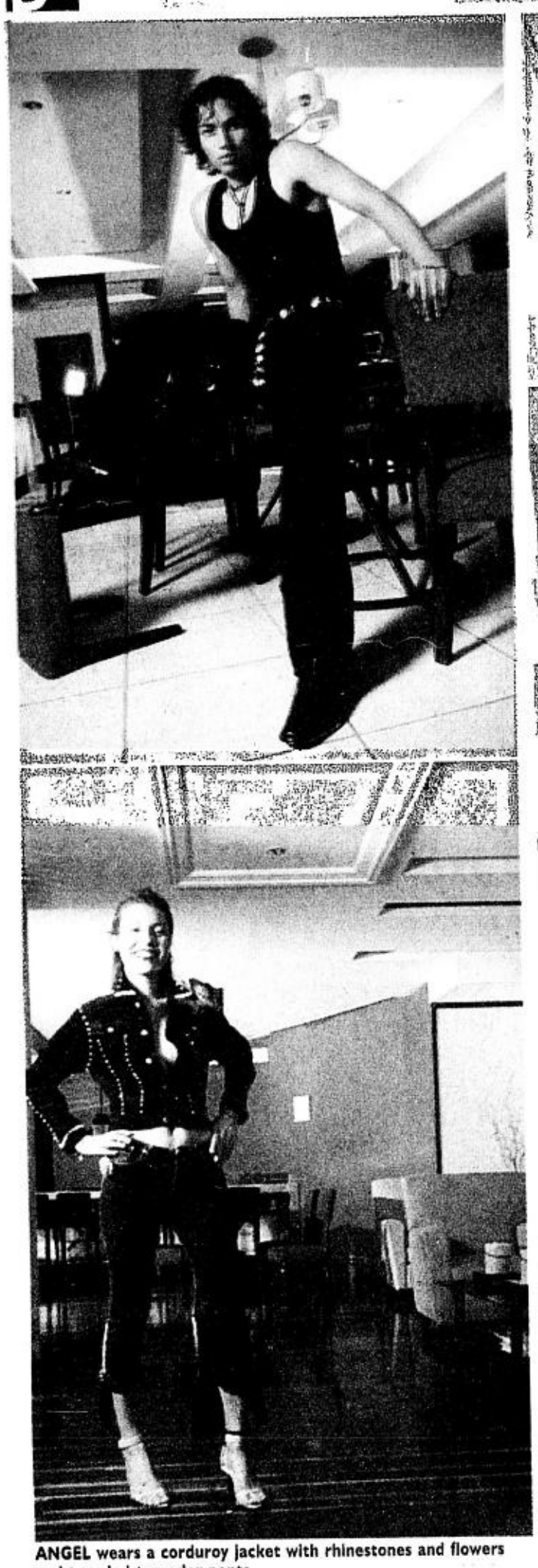
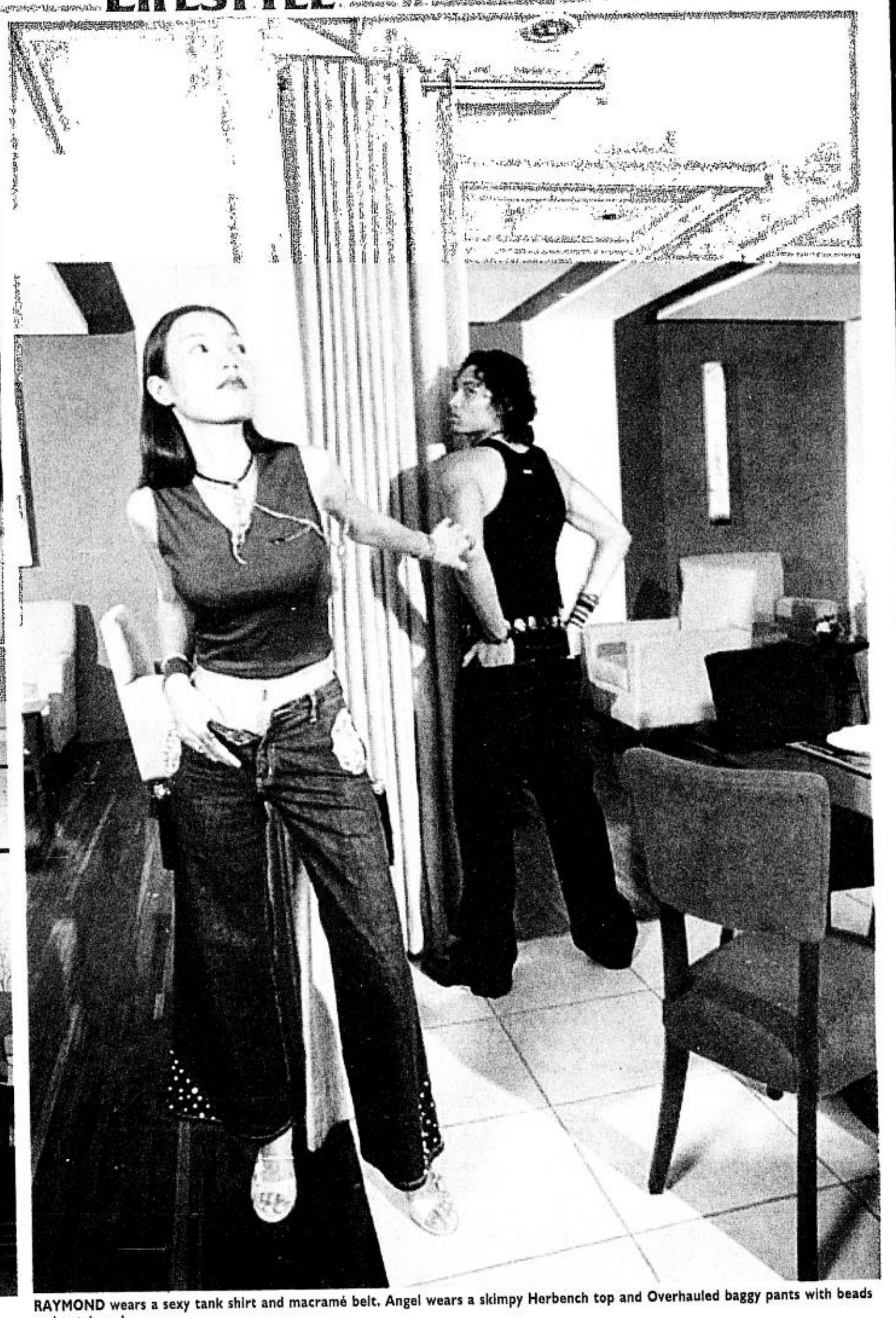


ANGEL wears a corduroy jacket with rhinestones and flowers and tasseled toreador pants.



RAYMOND wears a sexy tank shirt and macramé belt. Angel wears a skimpy Herbench top and Overhauled baggy pants with beads and patchwork.

Traditional meets quirky

TRADITIONAL/ p.D7

BENCH and Herbench corduroy jackets with silk flowers

Bench shows its version of designer jeans with Ernest Santiago's brand of styling

STYLING:
ERNEST SANTIAGO
MODELS:
ANGEL ALIBO,
RAYMOND MORENTE
FROM CAL CARRIE'S
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
BENCH FIX SALON
SHOES:
TYLER, GLORIETTA 3
LOCATION:
CIRKULO RESTAURANT
SPECIAL THANKS TO
MALU GAMBOA

ANGEL'S sleeveless coatdress with plastic flowers and green tassels is a turn-on to Raymond who wears a denim jacket with beads on the yoke and pants with a macramé band and flower around the knee.

Scents to make the spirit soar

SOUL food

Scent and soul mingle in a duet of fulfillment

SET off some Spark!

WITH ALL the hazards of daily living—unstable political and economic situations, upheavals in societies and health risks—people are looking for ways to build inner strength and to escape from the madding crowd.

Today's lifestyle that runs at nanosecond speed has given rise to coping mechanisms such as emotional intelligence, the need for quality time for the self, silence and a spiritual attitude. The new status symbols are mind-body-enhancing techniques such as meditation and yoga, Zen gardens, spas and other relaxation zones.

Noting this drift, manufacturers are developing products aimed at integrating spirit and matter, lifestyle and quality.

To meet the demands of a society that's weary of pressure and intense materialism, Human, the trendy line of Suyen Corp., is literally putting more soul into its products. The fragrance line has names that remind us of reconnecting with our inner lives and with the outside world. Sense, a sporty fragrance, links us to the world. Spark is a metaphor for the life force within a person.

The most relaxing scent is Soul, which reminds us of our original and pure state of being. The soul is a subtle star that has no physical dimension—only qualities of peace, love and bliss. Because we tend to lose track of our inner lives, we need to take time to create an awareness of our innate positive qualities. The natural mindfulness of ourselves as peaceful beings then fills all our activities, and the desire for peace of mind is fulfilled in a practical way.

MAKE Sense.

Traditional meets quirky

From page D6

Herbench labels. It revived the traditional five-pocket jeans but tweaked the details. Instead of rivets, common in jeans, red bar tabs were used as accents. Traditional jeans normally use beige or blue stitches. Overhauled Jeans uses colorful stitches in arcuate designs; the coin pockets are bigger, and there's more room around the hip and crotch areas for freedom of movement.

For the Generation Text, some styles have pockets for mobile phones and other accessories. Other pieces have a sandblasted effect. In keeping with the loose silhouette trend, Overhauled Jeans has a style with elephant legs.

Veronica Encarnacion, product assistant for Bench Denims, said the sales of Overhauled Jeans surpassed expectations. With prices ranging from P599.50 to P699.50, the customer finds value for money because the denim fabric is imported but the garments are made locally. In the Herbench line, the denim to covet is a tailored, button-front sleeveless dress with a military garterized belt.

Encarnacion explained that the Overhauled line was born out of the demands of its young target market that is adventurous and indulges in extreme sports. People in this group want jeans that enable them to move freely.

With the boom of denim comes the revival of patchworks and appliqués. At the recent Fashion Week, Bench invited designers to interpret its Overhauled line. The special event coincided with the release of advertisements featuring image model Borgy Manotoc.

Rhett Eala showed how the modestly priced denim could look classy with signature ponchos and subtle beadwork. Cecile Zamora made aprons, short skirts and slashed outfits.

Although Overhauled was meant for the under-30 market, boomers waxed nostalgic on seeing Santiago's treatment of denims, using appliqués, rhinestones, bows and flowers. Back in the '70s, jeans became the uniform of the youth. It was the great equalizer as rich kids adopted the workers' apparel. In the hippie era, jeans were bleached, distressed, patched up, embroidered and sewn into works of folk art.

Santiago reminisced on the era when he was active in fashion designing (he has settled in Laguna to concentrate on interior and furniture design and landscaping). Under his ready-to-wear label, Santiago de Manila, he fashioned a luxury line for Shoemart, consisting of denim jeans, shorts, skirts and bustiers that were prodigiously embroidered and beaded.

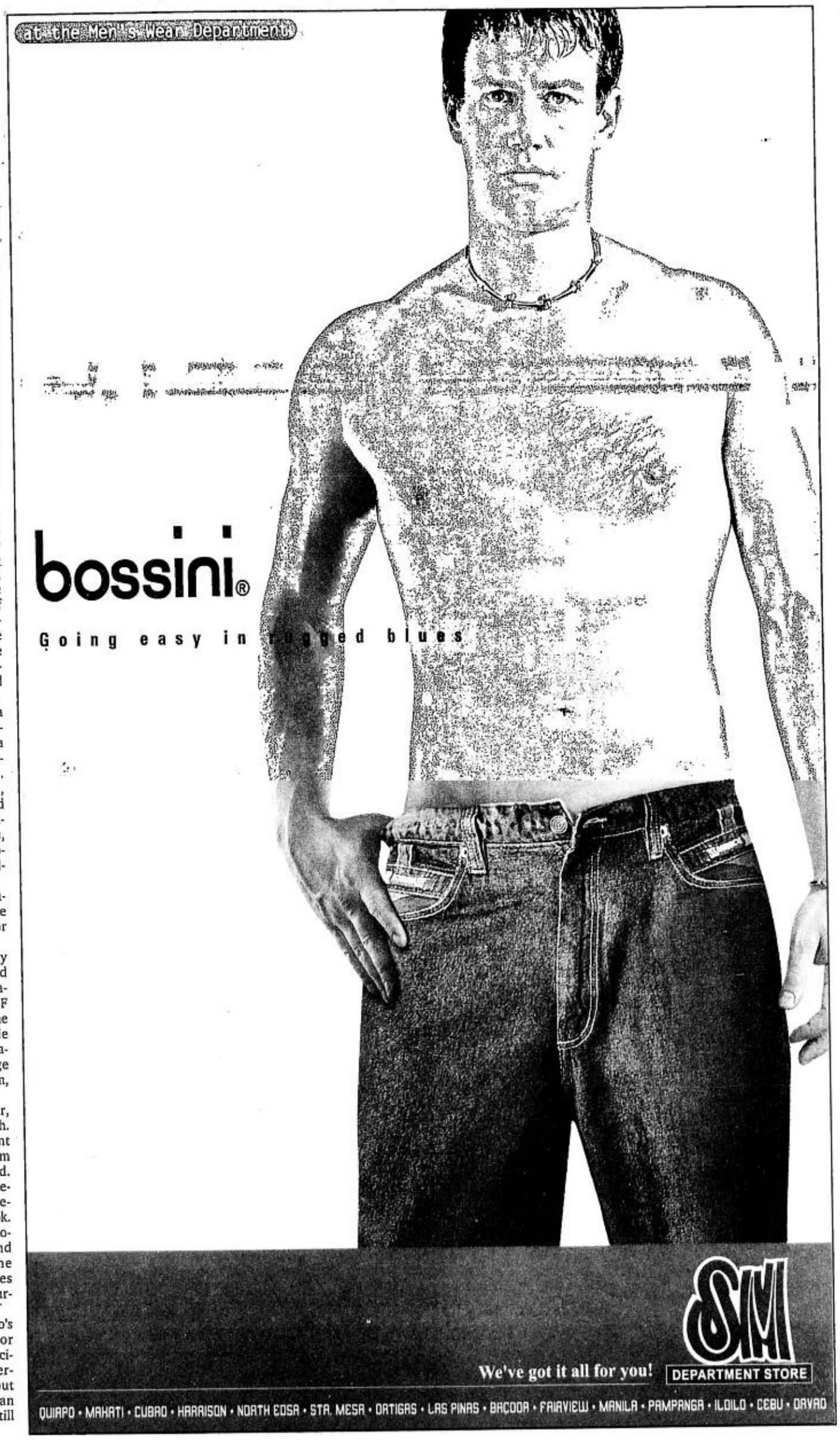
"In the '70s, I'd rip off the regular jeans, embroider and sew," he said. "I was SM's guinea pig for the high-fashion labels."

The line was a hit, especially among foreigners who fancied the embroidered denims. Santiago had customers from the DBF (*de buena familia*) set such as the Laurels and the Henareses. He said he recently saw socialite Mayenne Carmona wear a vintage Santiago de Manila white denim, pearl-encrusted bustier.

More than two decades later, Santiago does a redux for Bench. Compared with his flamboyant treatment in the '70s, his denim styling for Overhauled is refined. He studded his works with rhinestones and added macramé details and flowers for a fresh look. A pair of jeans would have a mother-of-pearl waist accent and macramé bands around the knees. He reworked 56 pieces that will be part of Bench's touring show.

Consumers will find Santiago's reworked denims in Bench or Herbench stores. They can anticipate new versions of the Overhauled. Next month, watch out for reversible denims. You can wear it any side you want and still look cool.

INDIAN-INSPIRED design in this denim jacket



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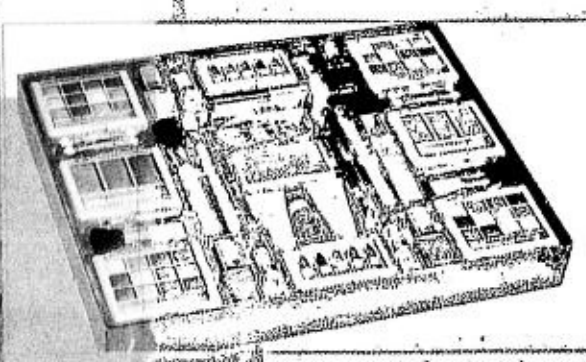

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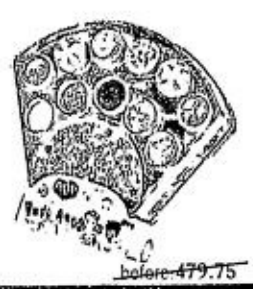

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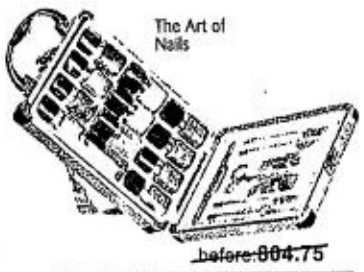

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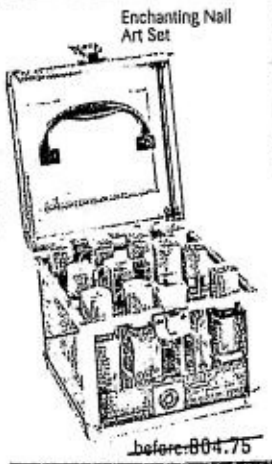

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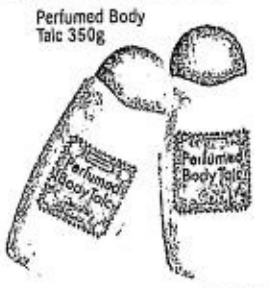

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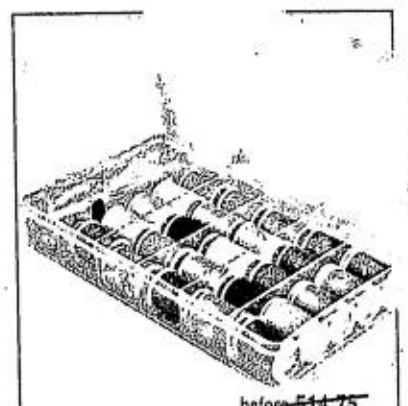

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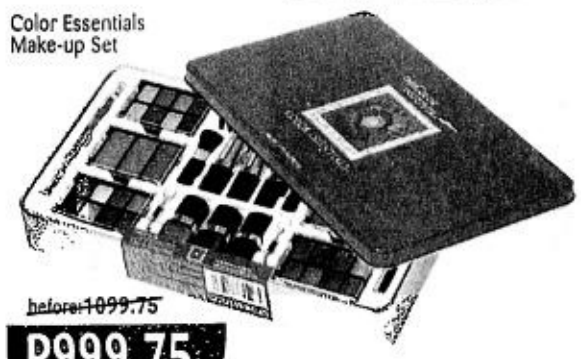

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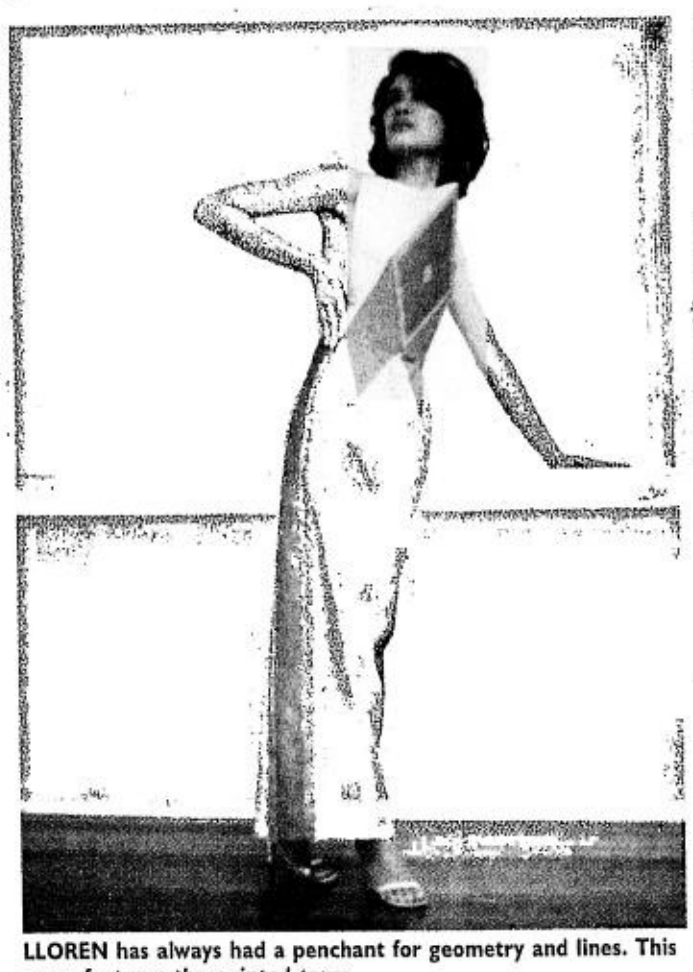
Jesus, fashion's rising superstar



LLOREN has always had a penchant for geometry and lines. This gown features the pointed torso.

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

THIRTY pieces. That's what is causing Jesus "Jojie" Lloren's sleepless nights. Thirty distinctive, complicated items that will be featured in his fashion show, his first full parade of twilight dressing. Known for his obsession with perfection, this young designer can't be rushed. It's worth the wait.

Lloren is one of the designers to watch for. It's rare to meet a designer who's got the savvy in ready-to-wear and in the made-to-measure fashion.

Lloren's luxury clothes are characterized by precise construction and structure which is soft not stiff. He also knows how to hide figure flaws by creating a design that's strong on visual impact. The eye is drawn to his innovations rather than the wearer's imperfections.

Asked to describe his designs, his response is free of the abruptness of adjectives. Instead, he refers to stories, to research, which exemplify his fuller concept. He is

JESUS/ p.E2

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TROMPE l'œil effect created by the jewelry on the waistband

THIS time Lloren focuses on the back. The jacket has a hunchback effect.

THE BROCADE cape reminisces a '60s silhouette.

Jesus, fashion's rising superstar

From page E1

not bound by a single inspiration, but is on a course that is still developing, still altering as his pieces are. Both ideas and items are subject to last-minute alterations.

This particular journey began with a fascination for Philippine developed fabrics and dyes, culmed from coconut, ginger and the like. He was interested in using locally manufactured silk, *abaca* and *piña*. But the lack of the material's availability coupled with the fact that the palette rendered was too muted made his opt to change directions. Rerouted into using deep, jewel tones in silk damasks, his scheme of acid lime, red, aqua and violet come across as both mysterious and sophisticated.

Extreme body

Then, he excitedly recounts hearing about an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York. The show was titled "Extreme Beauty: The Body Transformed." It was an anatomical tour of the body in relation to fashion and the development of the notion of physical perfection. As described by its curator, Harold Koda, "The show is a formal analysis of the strategies used to transform the body." Intrigued by this concept, Lloren began studying costumes from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, particularly sleeve details. Amassing historical and technical books from friends, he poured over the chronicles of the corset, dissected the methods by which one can elongate the neck, or give the illusion of a fuller bust or broader shoulders. He charted his way in the traffic of ideas without losing the plot. At a time where placid rehash is the rage, he has no singular reference. His designs are not about catch phrases, but concepts. In fact, he seems to have strengthened his narrative with even fresher images.

Hardly ever, as he talks of his work, does he use the word "design." His vernacular is full of "exploration" and "experimentation." Maybe that is what happens when one comes from a background of clothing technology, which stresses the study of application of a science, and the systematic treatment of an art or craft.

Using jersey, he recalls of his pre-Paris days, was an exercise in the most minimal number of lines. "A dress would have one seam line," he remembers. For some pieces in the show, this complicated single seam line concept is competently extended. But he presents them in an even more challenging format: using non-stretch fabrics. He achieves tailored theater; with trompe l'œil, where volume is perceived in a pattern and sleeves spray out into a cape.

He talks about the demons of details; how one skirt took a total of 12 days to finish; There is a tremendous tailoring involved yet he is vigilant against the over handling of the fabric. Though every piece is studied beforehand, they are still malleable. Very much in the same vein with which his own learning process is evolving.

Pressure

Before, he worked with the static method of flat patterns on paper. After having learned draping, he says that it has liberated him. It allows him to instantly understand the play between various cloths and their particular gravity, of fluid proportions and volume in space. He cites that his designs are bolder and more daring now.

The results, all 30 pieces, ride high on the crest of great expectations. Asked what is the most harrowing aspect of this trade show, he says shyly that it was self-imposed pressure. The world is a mixture of different tastes and as a friend explained to him "You don't have to please anyone, but yourself." And that measure is mighty, as he believes in constantly improving on his craft.

A resolute innovator, Lloren says:" Never do the things you did in the past, go forward each time." There is a lot to look forward to, on May 3 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio as the quiet virtuoso is happy with this collection.

Jesus Lloren's show is part of the F.A.D (Fashion, Arts and Design) series produced by Notenoughcircuses. Call 714-0460.

E-mail the author at baileys_crayon @yahoo.com

Jojie Lloren to friends, this designer will show his bravura in construction in his first-ever fashion show

FUCHSIA gown in tulle with cylindrical draping and beaded accents. The collar can also be a sleeve.

LLOREN innovates the chartreuse evening jacket by making four sleeves instead of two. The sleeves add body to the silk top. It goes with this A-line skirt with a hanky overskirt in Thai silk.

MODEL:
JOAN BITAGCOL
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
ANGELO JUSTIN
FOR FRANCK PROVOST
SPECIAL THANKS
TO JOE MARI TREÑAS

Goulbourn to lecture on fashion trends

DESIGNER Jean Goulbourn will hold a makeover seminar titled "All About Me" at the annual regional conference of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) at the Baguio Country Club on May 24-26.

The seminar on May 25 is the final event to a series of topics that will be taken up during the two-day conference of the Picpa group. Goulbourn will speak on dressing up, stripping down and baring soul. She will review colors, trends and silhouettes with a focus on body-type analysis.

GOULBOURN

Goulbourn is noted for her successful RTW line, JMGoulbourn, at SM of 25 years. Her understanding of the woman's body and ability to translate trends have kept the JMGoulbourn line at the forefront of fashion.

Goulbourn's passion for silk led to the establishment of Silk Cocoon. One can find beautiful hand-loomed shawls and formal and semiformal outfits for women and silk barongs for men adorned with hand embroidery.

Watsons to open in Ortigas

WATSONS will open two new personal store outlets today at the SM Megamall and The Podium, formally launching Watsons' entry in the Philippine market through a joint venture with the SM Group of Companies.

The new stores will bring to the Philippines the "personal care" concept that Fillpinos look forward to when visiting Watsons stores in Asia and Europe. This involves providing brands, service and value in a combined pharmacy and health and beauty outlet.

These stores provide an exciting shopping environment for today's modern lifestyle with products ranging from toiletries, cosmetics, medicines, fashion items, food and toys.

"We believe consumers will enjoy the numerous benefits that have become synonymous with the Watsons name, including great value, dedication to consumer service, convenience, wide variety and modern shopping environments," says ASW Group managing director Ian Wade.

In this joint venture, Watsons Personal Care Store (Philippines) has acquired SM's existing health and beauty and drugstores to launch the popular Watsons concept nationwide.

The new company has re-branded the existing stores under the Watson's Your Personal Store name and will add 15 new outlets in the first year to serve Filipino consumers nationwide.

Dennis Casey, managing director of Watsons Phils., says, "We will introduce three store formats of combined health and beauty stores, drug stores and beauty/cosmetics departments in department stores. Our key target audience is the young consumer who is looking for brand and service and value and an unrivaled diversity of products—attributes for which Watsons Your Personal Store is renowned Asia-wide."

A.S. Watson originated more than 160 years ago in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong. It began as a small dispensary known for providing free medicines to the poor. In 1841 Britain took possession of Hong Kong, and the dispensary relocated and grew with the new colony.

Under the Watson family, it quickly diversified into the production of aerated water as well as pharmaceutical and retailing operations.

CANTELLO

YSL names new makeup adviser

YVES Saint Laurent Parfums announces the appointment of Linda Cantello to the role of artistic adviser for the makeup collection. In this new position, Cantello will work closely with Ford, creative director of Yves Saint Laurent, and Chantal Roos, YSL beauté president, to bring a modern, innovative sensibility to the house's prestigious luxury beauty line.

Ford and Cantello have a long history of working together, and Ford says he tapped Cantello for this role because of her unique ability to translate powerful, modern femininity into directional beauty looks. "Linda's vision is perfect for Yves Saint Laurent makeup. Her trademark is extremely sexy makeup, she intuitively understands what is womanly."

GRETCHEN BARRETTO IS IMAGE MODEL OF PLAINS & PRINTS

Actress Gretchen Barretto (second from left) has just signed a contract with Plains & Prints, a brand of ladies' apparel, as its official image model. Photo shows Barretto with (from left) Angeli Pangilinan Valenciano of Genesis Entertainment, Barretto, Ericson and Roxanne Farillas of Plains & Prints during the contract signing. Barretto will be seen in all Plains & Prints billboards, print ads and store displays throughout the year. See her at 10 a.m. today as she unveils her fashion photo exhibit for Plains & Prints on the 2/F Robinsons Galleria. Barretto romances the camera of April Son. Shoppers will get a 20-percent discount until May 5 from Plains & Prints when they buy at Robinsons Galleria.

BERGMANN
of Germany
Announces Its First Ever
HAIR SALE!!!
APRIL 26 - MAY 31, 2002
Up to 50 % discount on selected Hair-for-Life units, Hair Systems, Hair Extensions, Hair Accessories, Hair Products and all Hair Services.
PLUS
Bring your existing hairpiece and avail of our FREE hairpiece check-up regardless of brand.
Call us now
at 807-2627 or 807-2311
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UHT - Full Cream Fresh Milk
In the new Slim Type Box from Tetra Pak
DAIRY GOOD.
Now available in all leading Supermarkets and Groceries Nationwide.

SM
SUPERMALLS
INVITES YOU TO
DRESS-A-FISH
THIS SUMMER!
...and win CASH PRIZES!
SM Supermalls invites you, your family or your friends to explore and exhibit your creativity this summer!
Join the "Dress-A-Fish" contest by dressing-up (painting, decorating...etc.) a 3ft " papier mache" fish available at any SM Supermall.
Promo Mechanics:
1. Secure a joining form upon purchase of the official entry "papier mache" fish worth P300.00 at designated booths of any SM Supermall and immediately avail instant cash coupons from Toy Kingdom and the SM Stationery Department!
2. You will be given one week from the date of purchase to "dress-up" your fish and submit your entry. Entries must be submitted, along with the joining form and receipt of purchase, to the Marketing Officer at the Mall Admin. Office.
3. Upon submission of your "dressed-up" fish, along with your joining form and receipt of purchase, you instantly get an SM Gift Cheque worth P300.00. You may submit as many fish entries as you want and get same GC amount per entry.
4. All entries shall be displayed in the mall's atrium area for public viewing up to the final judging set on May 28-29, 2002. Entries shall be judged on per mall basis anytime within the specified judging period.
5. Each mall will have a set of judges assigned to choose one winning entry based on creativity, ingenuity on materials used, concept presentation and overall impact. Winning entry will be determined on the spot right after the judging.
6. Winners will receive a Banco De Oro Cash Card Worth P10,000. There will be a total of 12 winners for all malls. Judges' decision is final.
7. Winners will be notified via phone or registered mail beginning May 31, 2002. Prizes can be claimed from the Marketing Officer of the Mall Admin. Office of the particular SM Mall branch they won. Winners must bring copy of joining form, any major ID and receipt of purchase. (Unclaimed prizes within 30 days upon receipt or notification will be forfeited).
8. Participants can claim winning or non-winning entries beginning May 31, 2002 at the Mall Admin. Office (thru the Marketing Officer). Participants must present the copy of their joining form and any ID for proper identification. SM Supermalls has the right to dispose unclaimed entries after June 7, 2002.
9. Employees of the Shopping Center Management Corporation (SCMC) are not allowed to join the contest.
10. Promo starts **April 19, 2002 and ends on May 19, 2002.** Deadline **for submission of entries is until May 26, 2002** (mall hours only).
MAGIC 89.9
BANCO DE ORO
SM SUPERMALLS
CITY NORTH EDSA • CENTERPOINT • MEGAMALL • SUPERCENTER SUCAT • SOUTHMALL • CITY FAIRVIEW
CITY BACOOR • CITY DAVAO • CITY CEBU • CITY ILOILO • CITY MANILA • CITY PAMPANGA

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An iconoclast gets straight-laced

Photos by Chito Vecina

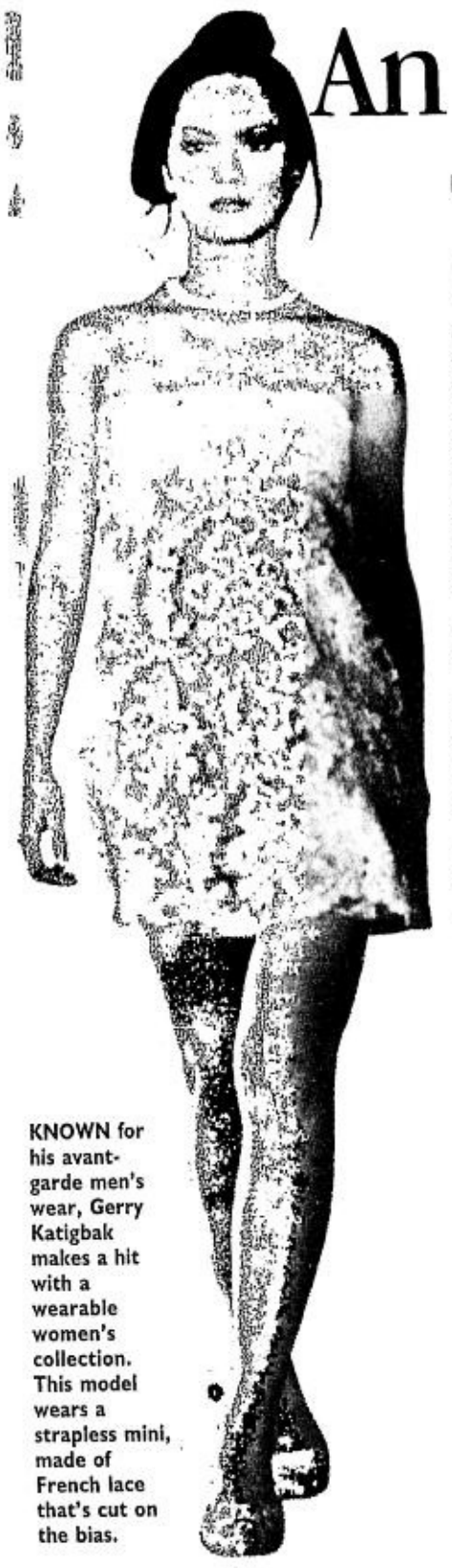
GERRY Katigbak, known for his unconventional men's wear, got real. In his show at the Coconut Palace, Katigbak surprised the audience with his collection that was wearable, and appealing to women. The big hits were geometric-cut dresses, made from delicate French lace but modestly covered with spandex chemise. He also got orders for the ecru silk organza dresses with bias insertions and short lace dresses with chiffon tops.

"It pays to make something wearable. You sell," he said. Women adored his styles but insisted they wanted longer versions.

Katigbak started out as a consultant for Rustan's Makati's Monsieur boutique. He got exposed to fabric, construction and styling. After three years, he went on his own. The self-taught designer experimented with his cutter. He became known for his theatrical styling and penchant for playing with men's wear.

In a men's fashion show in 1986, Katigbak dressed up then top model Leo Rabago in a bold striped knit shirt and pants, looking like a convict from Alcatraz. The model lay down on the runway made of yards of chiffon and spun himself into a cocoon. To this day, it's rare to see Filipinos adventurous enough to wear strong horizontal stripes.

In another fashion show, Katigbak had to work with models he hadn't met. He was shocked to



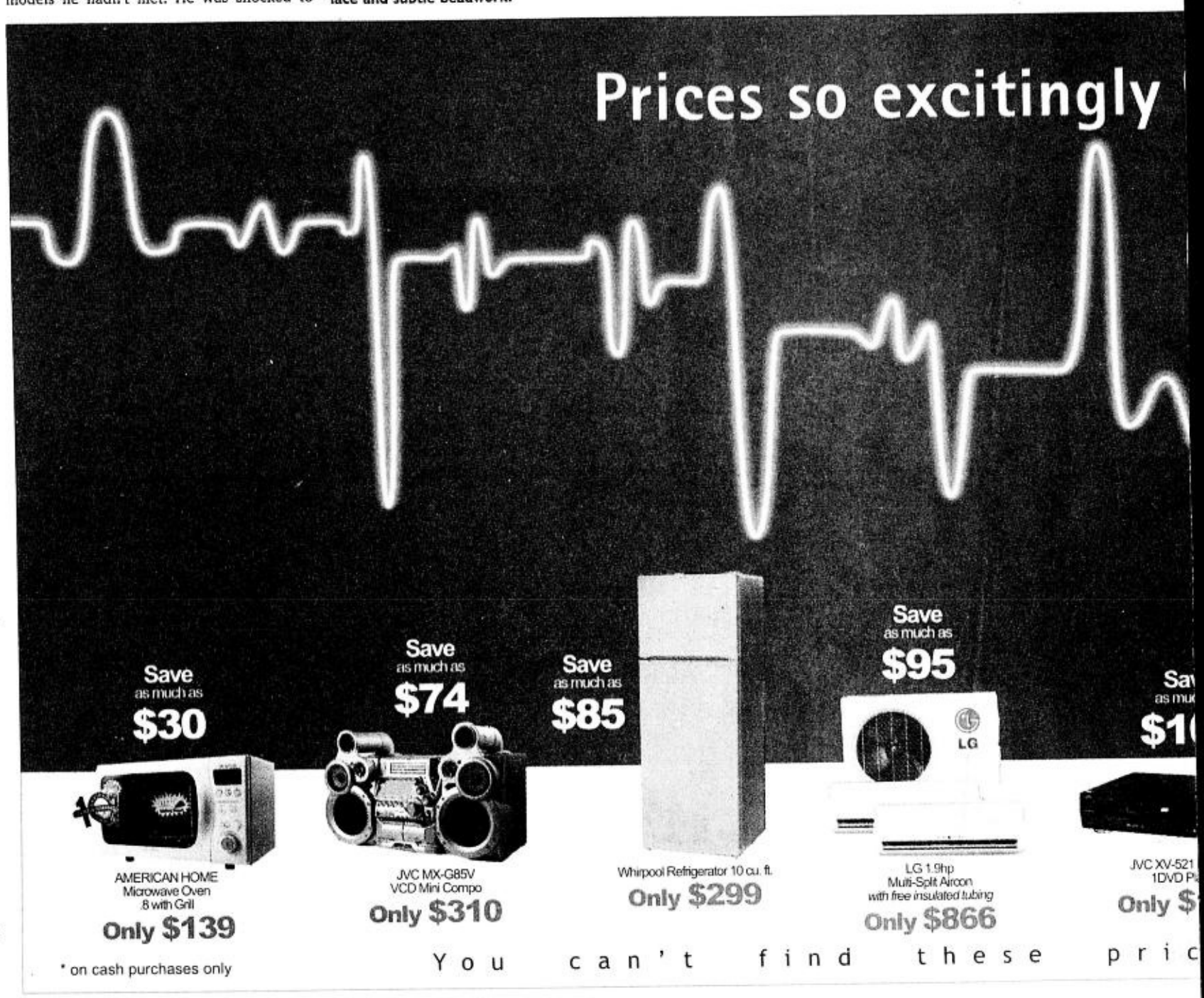
KNOWN for his avant-garde men's wear, Gerry Katigbak makes a hit with a wearable women's collection. This model wears a strapless mini, made of French lace that's cut on the bias.

FOR WOMEN who want to feel sexy. The sheer chiffon top is worn over a short lace camisole and mini, adorned with French lace and subtle beadwork.

GOING ALL-OUT ASYMMETRIC. The cotton-knit top has an uneven neckline and hem. So does the lace skirt.

MIXING TEXTURES. A chiffon shawl and a black bow soften the stiff minidress with flared sleeves, edged with lace.

DIRNDL chiffon dress with a lace slip peeping out.



Famous for his outrageous clothes, Gerry Katigbak makes wearable lace dresses that sell

KATIGBAK shows his penchant for ethnic cultures. This Nehru-collared shirt goes with an embroidered vest and a textured linen jacket. The shock value—typical of the designer—is dressing the man in red pants and matching red shoes by Colours.

see that their faces could not do justice to his clothes. So he dressed them in black-and-white striped T-shirts and his signature jodhpurs, and covered their faces with red hankies. Although the stage effect was brilliant, the models were miffed that their faces were censored.

As for the jodhpurs, Katigbak said they appeal mainly to male expatriates who use them as beachwear.

His unforgettable sound bite: "You've got to break rules to be interesting."

Katigbak doesn't like to be boxed in as just a designer. In his latest show, he conceived the stage, direction, musical scoring, choreography and the clothes. The show aimed to promote Alcatel's new mobile handset, the 511. At the start of the show, models strutted down the catwalk touting the handset. Men wore spandex trunks with a pouch containing the mobile slung around their necks.

Although Katigbak is known for his Oriental-inspired clothes, loose silhouettes, layering, strong colors and his penchant for folkloric embellishment, in this show he featured his "killer skirts." The skirts are so tiny men would have a field day looking for a woman's dimples. Although he stuck to his trademark black-and-white palette, he spiked his collection with fruity colors like apple red, kiwi, orange and banana yellow.

Katigbak also designs his footwear. He makes reflectorized slippers from 3M tape or sandals with beads and appliqués. The model-bride was shod in flat, sequined lace shoes.

"She should feel young wearing her wedding dress," he said.

In fact, Katigbak's youthful and fresh attitude toward fashion reflects how he feels about himself. "*Bata at sariwa pa rin* (I'm still young and luscious)."

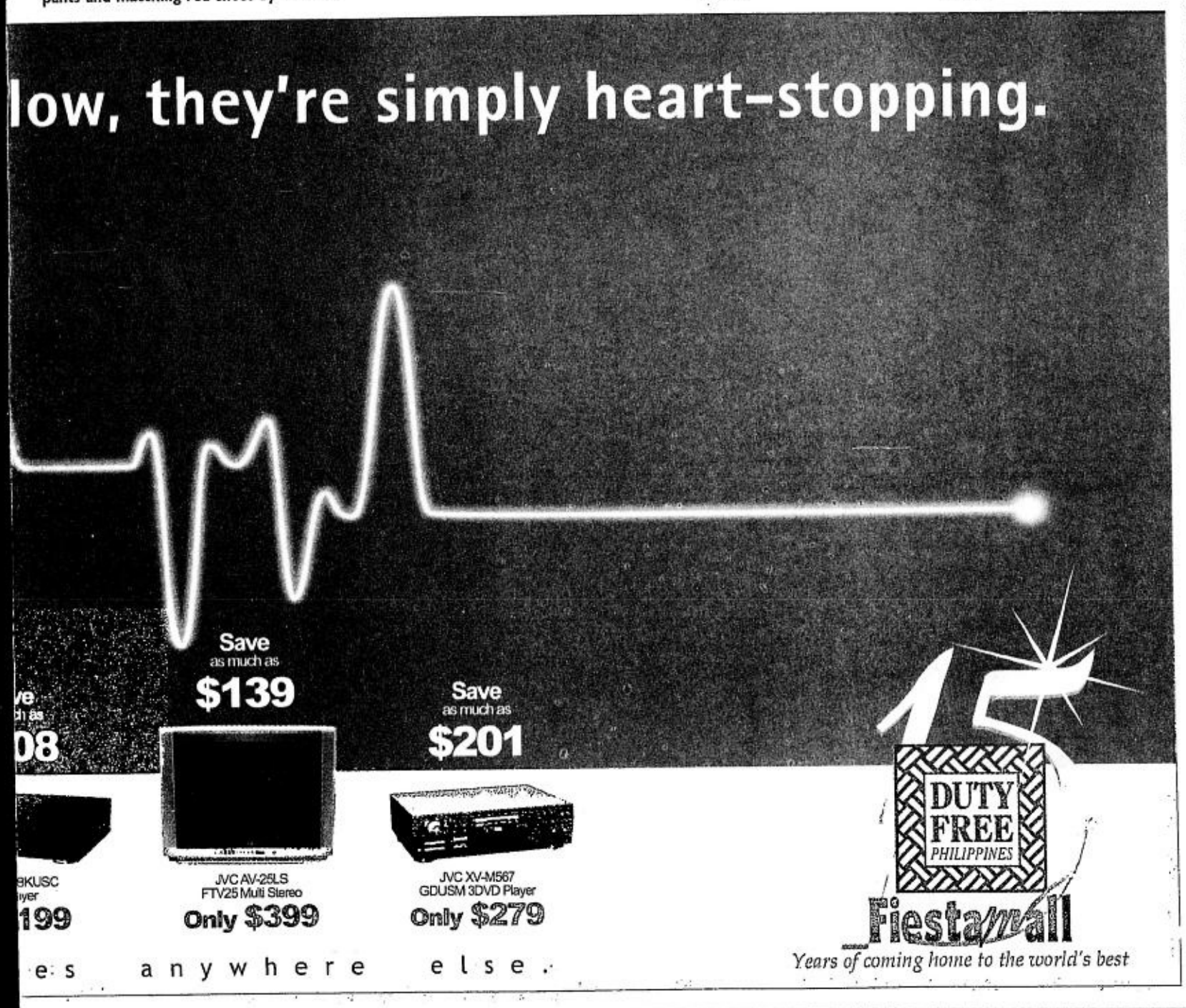
Marge C. Enriquez

SUMMER COCKTAIL DRESS. The Chinese brocade bib top is paired with two layers of silk chiffon.

BEADED chiffon poncho with lace inserts worn over a lacy blouse and cotton rayon flared pants.

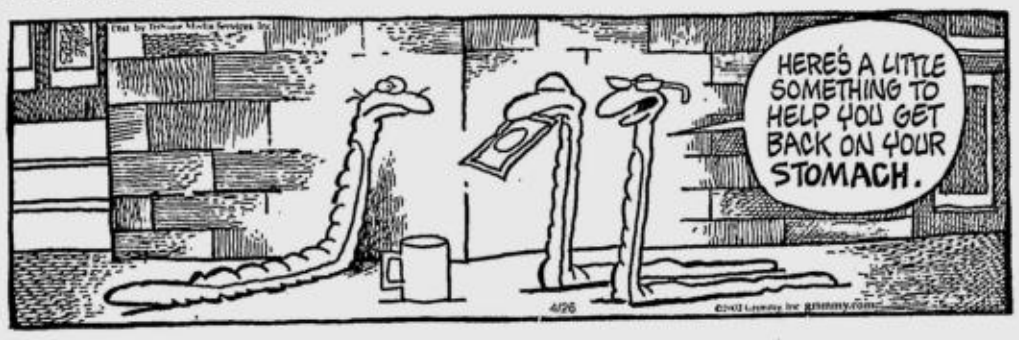
KATIGBAK'S SIGNATURE: The Indian-inspired *kurta* made from *sari* material and boxy cotton slacks.

THE PASHMINA, the summer shawl, is given a twist with crochet and appliqué treatment reminiscent of '70s handiwork. It goes with the flaming red pants and orange slippers with dainty flowers also made by Katigbak.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carol Burnett, Oliver Cromwell, Bobby Rydell, Jon Lee
Happy Birthday: You should take a serious look at your insurance policies, investments, wills or any other personal papers that may require updating or changes. You will have a greater concern with unusual subjects and this could lead to greater interaction with people from different walks of life. Your numbers are 10, 14, 25, 33, 41, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You must get out and about today. Romance will develop at social functions. An intellectual approach to someone who interests you will be your best bet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your creative energy will flow freely today, allowing you to come up with unique and progressive ideas that will help you receive the advancement you've been waiting for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic opportunities with someone you are already with or someone new will be enhanced. Your vitality will attract interesting people and your popularity will grow.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It may be hard to keep your true feelings to yourself today. If you haven't been happy with someone today will likely be the day that you let this person know exactly how you feel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your high energy should be directed toward doing things with your friends or family. Pleasure trips will be rewarding from a personal point of view.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your drive and determination to complete projects will win respect and recognition for your remarkable achievements. You can gain respect and support by voicing your opinion to superiors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): New friendships will spark enthusiasm in you. If you travel, you will discover all sorts of interesting information that will be valuable to you later on. Use discrimination when it comes to intimate relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your eyes peeled for anything out of the ordinary today. Secret intrigue will develop through association with large corporations or institutions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You would be wise to get involved in an intellectual group that shares your beliefs. You can meet potential partners who can be of interest to you personally or of help to you professionally.

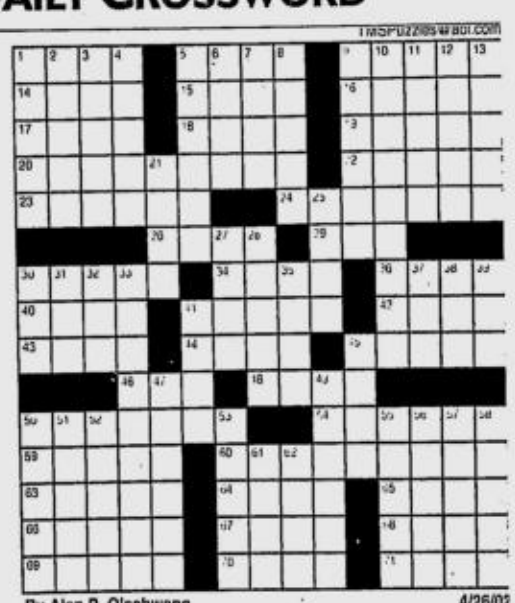
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As long as you don't overreact emotionally you will do just fine today. Your ideas and suggestions concerning your work will be right on and therefore you should be able to accomplish what you set out to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Changes are in order and should result in feeling better about yourself as well as your new direction. Travel will bring you positive results and you will find yourself sitting in a pretty enjoyable position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There is money to be made if you are quick to respond to the offers at your disposal. Property investments may be long-term but they will be lucrative. Put some effort into adding value to your home.

Birthday Baby: You will be extremely proud of your home and your family. You are kind, generous and you will not stand for an outsider speaking negatively about the ones you love.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

4/26/02

ACROSS
1 Honeybees' milieu
5 Ludicrous
9 Lyrics
14 Highlight at the Met
15 Vocalist Fitzgerald
16 Help
17 Tolled
18 Approach
19 Italian seven
20 Start of Ivan Panin quote
22 Hackneyed
23 Montana's capital
24 Part 2 of quote
26 GM make
29 Internet address: abbr.
30 Future steeds
34 Gone Gl
36 Gymnast Korbut
40 Othello's nemesis
41 Part 3 of quote
42 Garden invader
43 Phrygian city in Asia Minor
44 Touched down
45 Creates booties
46 Furthermore
48 Midday
50 Part 4 of quote
54 Units of magnetic flux
59 Gasps
60 End of quote
63 Inappropriate
64 Medicinal plant
65 Farm measure
66 Kind of mushroom
67 Calendar confines
68 One of a pair
69 Obliterate
70 Lays the lawn
71 Blind part

DOWN
1 Austere
2 Angry
3 Plastics base
4 Bald hunter
5 Repudiation
6 Pub potables
7 Like the prairies
8 Fortuneteller's deck
9 Reckless spender
10 Done to excess
11 Proportion
12 Me too!
13 Glossy
21 Seth's son
25 Luau dance
27 Author of "James and the Giant Peach"
28 Beau
30 Match up
31 Rower's requirement
32 Gone by
33 Allegiances
35 Italian eight
37 Honolulu garland
38 Catch on
39 Junk mail, mostly
41 Dry ravine in Africa
45 Patella's place
47 Snuggle
49 Those remaining
50 Froth
51 Landed estate
52 Structure starter?
53 Remains behind
55 Bangs shut
56 Limited
57 Heart connection
58 Form of target shooting
61 Imitation butter
62 Tailless amphibian

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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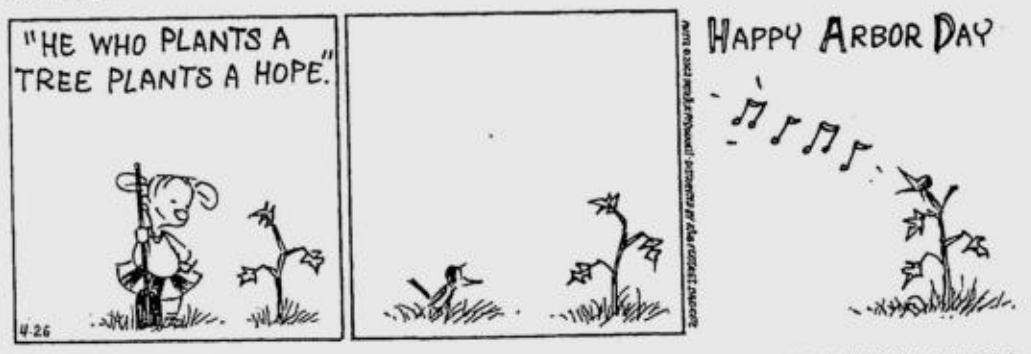
4/26/02

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Magazine launches merchandise in Manila

INTERNATIONAL brand Elle opened its first two stores in the country at Robinsons Place Manila and at the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center.

The brand is a spinoff of the magazine launched in Paris in 1945 by Helene Lazareff. Today, Elle is the biggest-selling fashion and lifestyle magazine in the world, with 35 editions worldwide and selling over 60 million copies a year. The launching of elle.com portal and the development of 14 international websites show how traditional content and media have moved to digital formats.

With 30 million page views per month, elle.com generates strong advertising support and holds more room for expansion into the digital world.

Elle Merchandise was launched in Japan in the early 1980s, and extended its reach in Asia in 1991.

Elle Paris targets modern, career-minded women aged 18-35 who are chic, confident and enjoy life. The clothes and accessories are simple, elegant and affordable.

Elle Sports is a young and sporty line perfect for weekend and casualwear.

Elle Homme is for the urban male with a strong sense of style. Outfits range from clothes for corporate work as well as for casual evenings at the club or for plain hanging out.

Added to this is Elle Studio for the funkiest fashion accessories; Elle Petite, a sunny line for children aged 4-12; and Elle Poupon, a cute but comfortable line for babies aged 0-3.

The new Elle store is offering its Spring/Summer 2002 collection that features delicious color themes in pale and bright shades, and in stylish designs and ultra-comfortable fabrics.

Check out Elle stores at 1/R Lifestyles Wing, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, and at 2/F Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila.

ORIENTAL floral print cotton halter top with drawstring at the waist, matching skirt and ruffles at the hemlines

Mother's Day promo

JEWELMER salutes the most beloved woman in our lives, our Mother.

Starting today until June 30, Jewelmer will be giving away a special 25-percent discount and two matching loose pearls to complete the set to all cash purchases of South Sea pearl strands in all its shops in Metro Manila and Cebu. Within this period, clients can choose from a wide selection of South Sea pearl strands of varying lengths and color.

Call 810-0266 or e-mail sales@jewelmer.com.

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Suede slip-ons
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Cosmetics company names 3 music icons as product spokespersons

MAC Cosmetics has appointed music legend and AIDS activist Elton John, Grammy Award winner Mary J. Blige and rock icon Shirley Manson of the band Garbage as the spokespersons for Viva Glam IV lipstick.

Since its creation in 1994, Viva Glam lipsticks have been the primary fund-raising tool for The MAC AIDS Fund.

Mary J. Blige reprises her role as the face of MAC's Viva Glam IV after promoting last year's Viva Glam III campaign in the United States and around the world, which broke all past fund-raising records by raising more than $7 million for The MAC AIDS Fund. For the first time ever, MAC will join forces with Elton John's AIDS Foundation which has raised more than $30 million to date, strengthening the outreach of both organizations to help more than 40 million people affected by this global epidemic.

SHIRLEY Manson, Elton John and Mary J. Blige

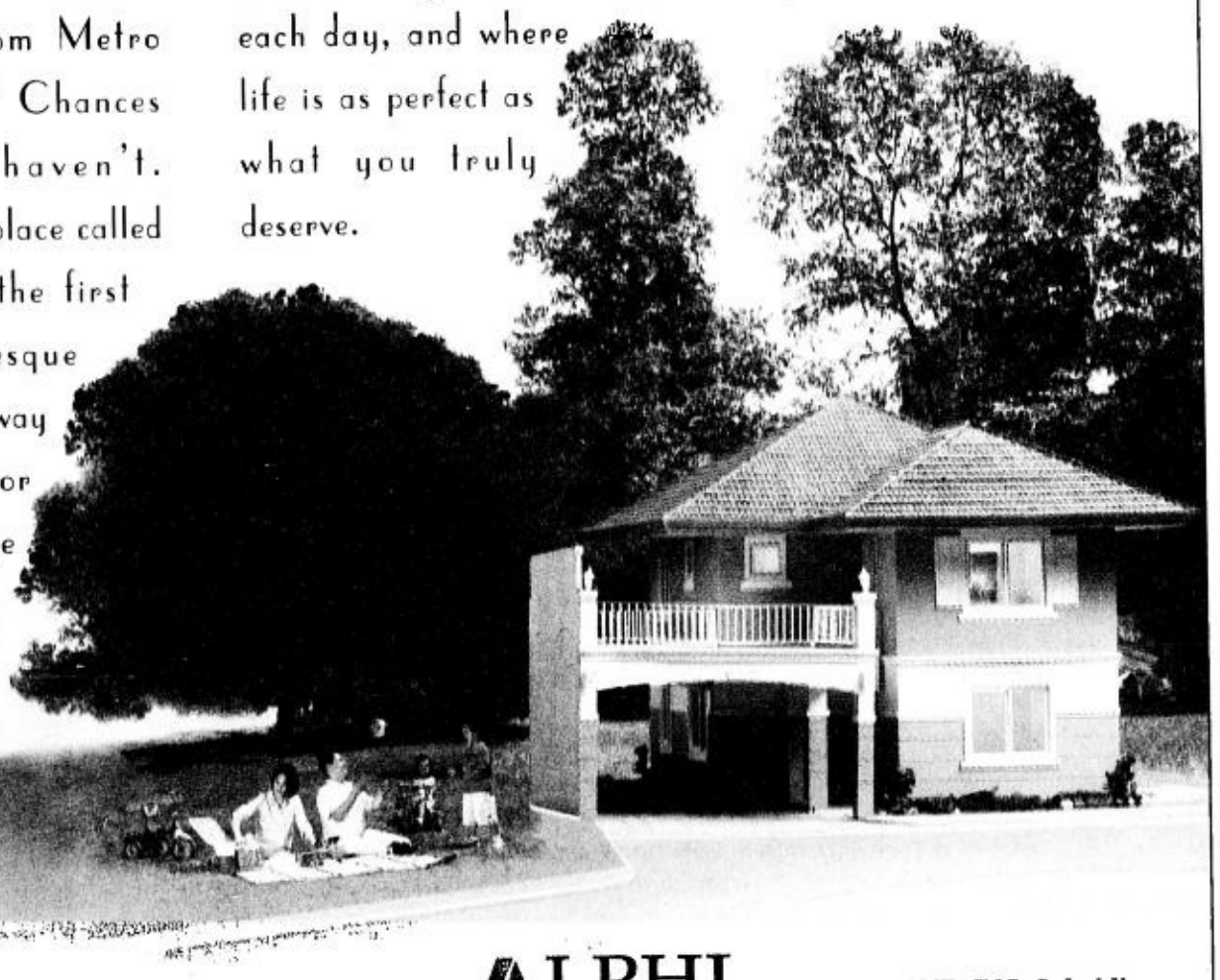
Legendary recording artist and rock icon Elton John has recently released his 40th album, "Songs from the West Coast," already being hailed as one of his best albums ever. Sir Elton John has been a tremendous supporter in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He founded the Elton John AIDS Foundation in 1992, one of the largest international nonprofit AIDS organizations in the AIDS arena, which funds prevention education programs and direct patient-care services worldwide.

Grammy winner Mary J. Blige became an instant sensation with her 1992 debut album "What's the 411." Her current album, "No More Drama," was one of the most highly acclaimed releases of 2001.

Other bands have provocative female singers, but none have the attitude, the vocal chops, the look and the creativity commanded by Garbage frontwoman Shirley Manson. Outrageous, uninhibited, gifted Shirley Manson is a riveting presence both on and off stage.

Commune with nature everyday in a place just a few minutes away

When was the last time you saw a most splendid dewdrop that your jaw dropped? Or woke up to the sound of melodious chirping by early morning guests... without traveling miles and hours from Metro Manila? Chances are, you haven't. Experience this in a place called St. Alexandra Estates, the first Ayala community in picturesque Antipolo. A place where serenity is a way of life and Mother Nature your next-door neighbor. A Mediterranean inspired village accessible to the business districts of Ortigas, Makati and the exclusive schools of Quezon City--complete with all the amenities Ayala-managed subdivisions are known for. The houses use the innovative French Phenix building system, which combines durability and space optimization. With 60 different in-house payment schemes to suit your finances. It is a sanctuary for you and your family. A nest where dewdrops welcome the dawn of each day, and where life is as perfect as what you truly deserve.



St. Alexandra Estates

ALPHI LAGUNA PROPERTIES HOLDINGS, INC. An AYALA LAND, INC. Subsidiary

From PASIG/MAKATI: Take Ortigas Extension. Turn left at Binangonan-Tanay-Antipolo Junction. Turn right at Ynares Sports Complex (Circumferential Road). Go straight, pass 7-11 junction, pass Flying V gas station junction (Teresa National Road). Project site 1 km. away, at the right side. From QUEZON CITY: Take Marcos Highway. Turn right at the Masinag Market junction (Sumulong Highway). Turn left at "Prutasan" (Circumferential Road). Go straight until Flying V gas station junction. Make sharp left to Teresa National Road. Project 1 km. away at the right side. You can also email us at mktg.lphi@ayalaland.com.ph. Or call us at: 814-7876, 814-7453 and 818-2076. HLURB License to Sell No.: 04913.

Come to our St. Alexandra Estates and St. Gabriel Heights Grand Open House - April 28 (Sunday): 9 a.m. Attractive discounts will be given to early buyers.

Toned down

ALL ITEMS FROM U2
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2/F SM MEGA MALL, BLDG. A.
ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL U2 OUTLETS.

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

AFTER MONTHS of bright colors that herald the summer, it's time to get ready for the rainy days. We can tone down our wardrobe mixing and matching our separates in monochromatic hues.

Also, there's more to basic colors than black, white, beige, red or blue. Here are some tips:

- Berry shades come in various hues. It's interesting to mix contrasting shades. An eggplant-colored skirt can be paired with a mauve or pink top.
- Shades of green are another option. A forest or olive green works very well with mint or light khaki.
- Browns are also another option. Some refuse to wear brown bottoms for fear of looking like they're in school uniform. Chocolate goes with many colors—from bright yellow to neutrals to earthtones.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

BEIGE V-neck T-shirt, P548

KHAKI shirt with green and red stripes, P1,398

CHOCOLATE brown pants, P1,398

PURPLE shirt dress with belt, P1,998

PURPLE skirt with side buckle, P1,198

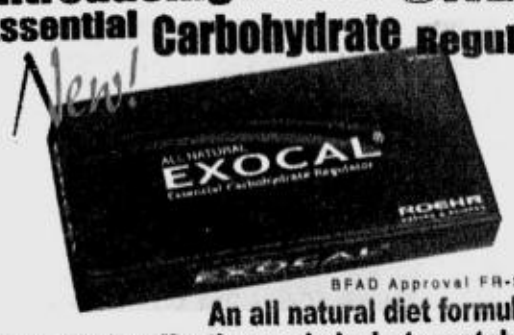
CELADON round-neck short-sleeved sweater, P1,398

PINK sleeveless turtleneck, P648

OLIVE-GREEN skirt with flap, P1,198

Introducing The country's ONLY Essential Carbohydrate Regulator

New!



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An all natural diet formulation that aids in effective carbohydrate metabolism

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ROEHR nature + science

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Call Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8am to 7pm and Saturdays 8am to 12nn only.
Email: exocal@wroehr.com
or visit our website at www.wroehr.com

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dive inn.

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₱2,200

Only P2,200 net for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 kids aged 19 years and below). Enjoy the use of a Standard Room from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, **free use of the swimming pool, P1,000 worth of food and beverage vouchers (consumable)**, free use of gym and 2 Playroom entrance passes for your kids. Promo runs until May 31, 2002.

BALIK MANILA FAMILY PACKAGE*
₱4,000

Extend the family fun! Stay longer with the BALIK MANILA FAMILY PACKAGE. It boasts of the lowest rate among hotels this side of town at P4,000 net for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 kids aged 19 years and below). Package includes an overnight stay in a Junior Suite, buffet breakfast, hotel baseball cap, free use of pool and gym, Casino Filipino pass, 10% discount on food and beverage orders and entrance passes at the Playroom (maximum of 2 kids).

**10% commissionable to local travel agents*

Exclusive to local residents and balikbayans only
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FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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LIFESTYLE 4home

Unique waterfall gardens are quintessential Al Quinn

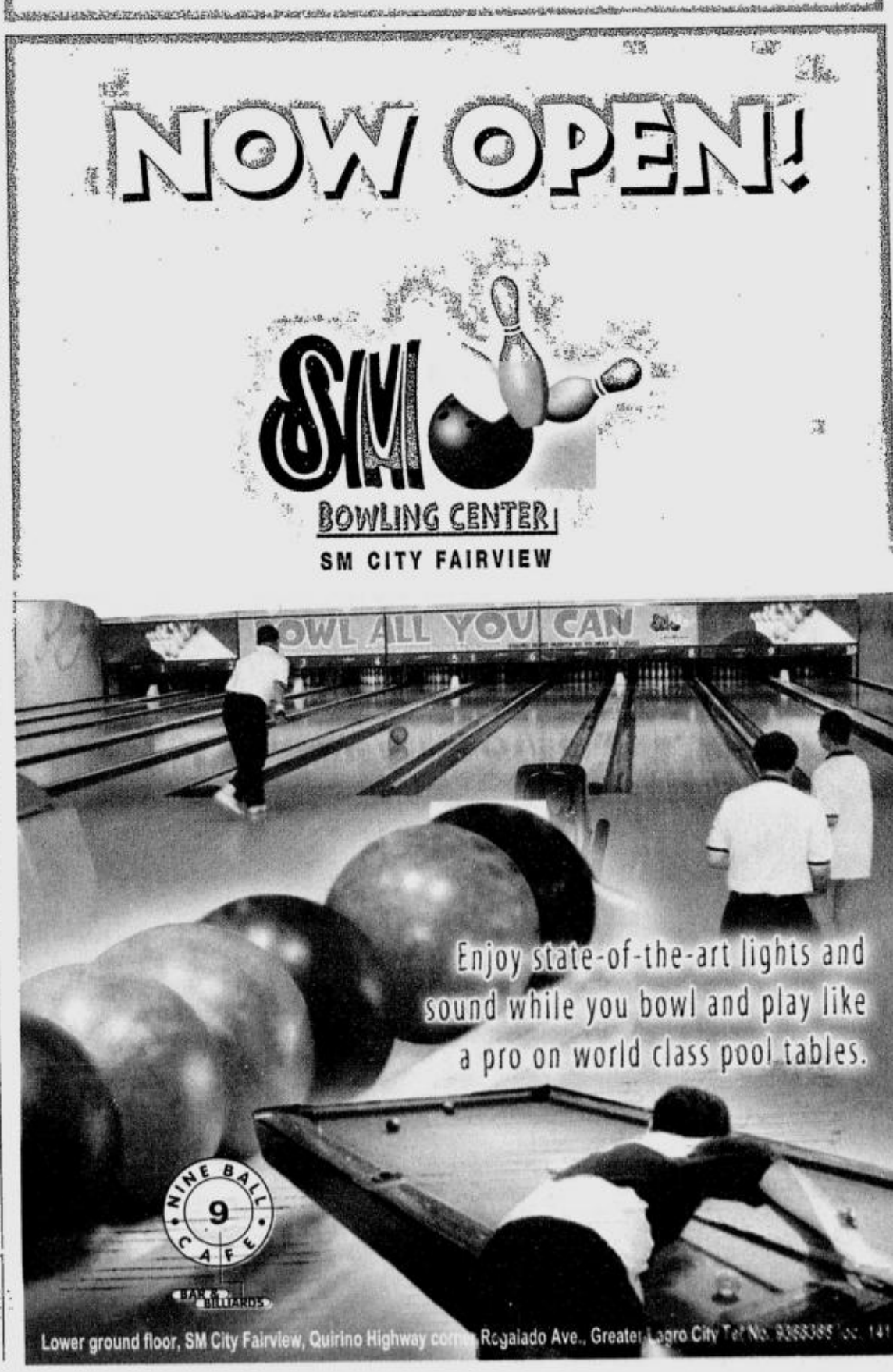
By Tita V. Giron
Contributor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

"INNER Being," "Full to the Brim," "Morning Offering," "Flowing On" and "Venus Rising" are some of the titles that Al Quinn, veteran movie-television director and choreographer, has given his sculptured waterfall gardens.

Yes, Direk Al Quinn, who has been in the entertainment world these last four decades or so, has found a new expression for his artistic leanings. He recreates nature water scenes in containers using mixed media that include, among others, sculpture, stage lighting, painting, bonsai and seascape. He was previously into painting and sketching, mounting two successful exhibits of his works. This time, he will exhibit his "waterfallscape" collection starting today until May 5 at Home Zone on the third floor of Glorietta 4.

Quinn, Alcuin Pastrano behind the screen name, has added a new dimension to what started as simple Zen meditative waterfalls that became popular wa-

UNIQUE/ p.F3



She's wondering if her textmate-boyfriend truly loves her

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have fallen in love with my textmate and he has been my boyfriend for seven months. May I ask some questions on how our long-distance relationship can last forever? We have made promises that someday we will be together.

I'm truly in love with him, and he is also in love with me. Should I believe him?

What should I do if the time comes that he does not love me anymore and he has gotten tired of texting me?

I don't want to lose him and he is my inspiration in my studies. Is it good having a boyfriend through texting? Some friends say it is weird to have one, since we have not seen each other. I need some advice about this kind of relationship and how to make it last forever.

MJG

You did not mention about landline phone conversations with him. So I presume that it is just really through your cell phone that you communicate. At times just listening to one simple sentence is better than reading a hundred words.

Do you know where he lives, what he does and how he got to know your number? What is the profession of his father? It is difficult to answer your questions now because there are many ifs to consider. That's why I have also asked you some questions, to help you think better.

It is not advisable to have a boyfriend just by texting, unless you two had previously met and you just continue getting in touch with each other.

Okay, he is your inspiration in your studies, but think of yourself, too, and focus on your future. Have you heard of the saying, "Love in a man's life is only a part; it is a woman's whole existence"? If loving him now fills your heart and mind, what will happen to you if he does not love you anymore? What you should do if and when the time comes is to accept the truth, brace yourself for a better tomorrow, and give your free time to some activity that will keep you busy and engrossed.

Right now, consider the possibility that he is texting several young ladies for fun (of course, I hope I'm wrong) because a man who is seriously in love would really want to see the love of his life. However, modern ways of living are now in progress, very different from the past. When I was just a teenager, one had to ring for the telephone operator to be connected to another phone just four blocks away. However, while life has many changes, falling in love remains the same way. You have to see him, listen to him, feel his love and thoughtfulness.

For now, you can continue texting him, because anything can happen. He just might come forward in the future, but then be ready for anything. If he stops texting you, don't bother. It's better than having a boyfriend who dates you frequently and then falls in love with another girl. Also, all things work for the good of those who love the Lord. If the two of you are meant for each other, it will come to pass. Just keep praying. God answers prayers in three ways: He answers you right away, or He makes you wait, or He might even give you something better. Good luck. Sorry, I can't answer your question on how to make your relationship last forever. What really is needed now is for the two of you to look at each other eye to eye, to face realities.

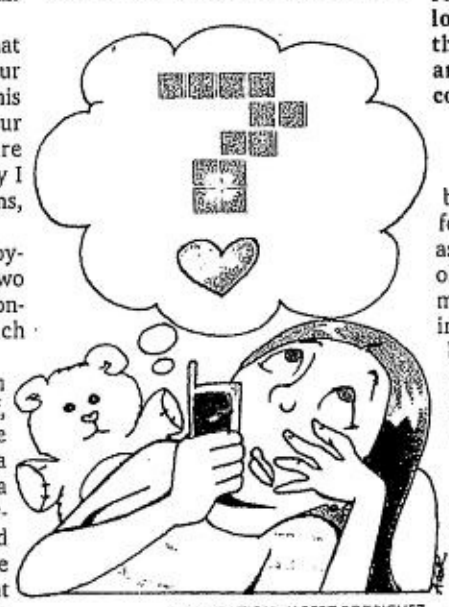


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

On dirty 25-centavo coins

MY husband is a jeepney driver, and I have a *sari-sari* store. We are blessed with two children and a happy life. But what bothers us now is the fact that we have a lot of 25-centavo coins that have become dirty. When I give some of them as change for buyers, they refuse them because of how they look. My husband has to accept them from passengers who get angry when he tries to ask for P1 coins instead. What should we do?

L.B.

You can bring those coins to the bank nearest you to exchange them for bank notes (peso paper bills). I asked Don Albino Quiban, who buys old coins, how to clean these newly minted coins, and he said to rub baking soda on the coins or use a soft brush. The phone number of Mr. Quiban is 524-0548. This answers Rosita's question on where to sell her old 10-centavo coins.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

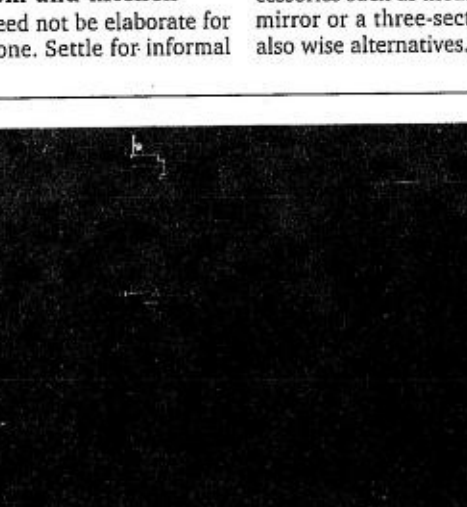
Add more dash to your home

ALABANG Town Center (ATC) shares some home decorating tips that can transform a simple house into the perfect home. ATC also takes readers right to the source of great buys with some of the best bets where quality, harmonious and modern living items at generally affordable prices can be found.

Living room

● Armchairs and sofas may be arranged to maximize space in the living room. Upholstered furniture in plain colors such as gray, ebony, mahogany and white can complement any type of wall or interior. For instance, Blims Fine Furniture's La-Z-Boy recliner sofa can mix well with Philux's country living set made of the finest imported wood. It is all a matter of positioning them in one room to create harmony amid the disparity in materials.

● Fill spaces with items and accents such as scented candles, picture frames and other decorations which can also be a source of creative joy. Area Home Store is known for its wide array of sleek, contemporary decorative items that give homes a touch of style.



PLACE a lamp beside the bed to give your bedroom a relaxed and cozy ambience.

● Accessories define the mood of a room. Colored bottles from China available at Home and Beyond make for perfect accessories or vases. Available in midnight blue, crimson, orange, violet and emerald, these bottles come in various shapes and sizes, too.

Dining room and kitchen

● Dining sets need not be elaborate for those who live alone. Settle for informal yet stylish dining sets that include chairs, tables and barstools that come in bright primary colors or light pastels. Dimensione offers warm wood and modern metal finishes that create the perfect setting for warm morning coffee or evening drinks with friends.

● Give your dining room a warm and elegant touch with dinnerware from Home and Beyond. The store has plates, bowls and other dinnerware from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines that make preparing meals a worthwhile experience.

● Keep your kitchen clutter-free by removing all unnecessary objects such as unused bottles, broken plates and cups. Clear your kitchen of litter and lighten it up. A kitchen utility rack from Dimensione can maximize a small kitchen space.

Bed and bath

● To give your bedroom a relaxed and cozy ambience, place a lamp or reading light beside the bed. These should be positioned properly on the table to prevent glare from the bulb from getting into your eyes.

● Make small bathrooms look big and roomy by placing a large mirror on the wall or on the back of the door. Store One has mirrors in both classic and funky designs that will give even the plainest of bathrooms character.

● Built-in shelves on walls and towel racks behind the door also are bathroom space savers. Dual-purpose bathroom accessories such as medicine cabinets with a mirror or a three-section corner rack are also wise alternatives.

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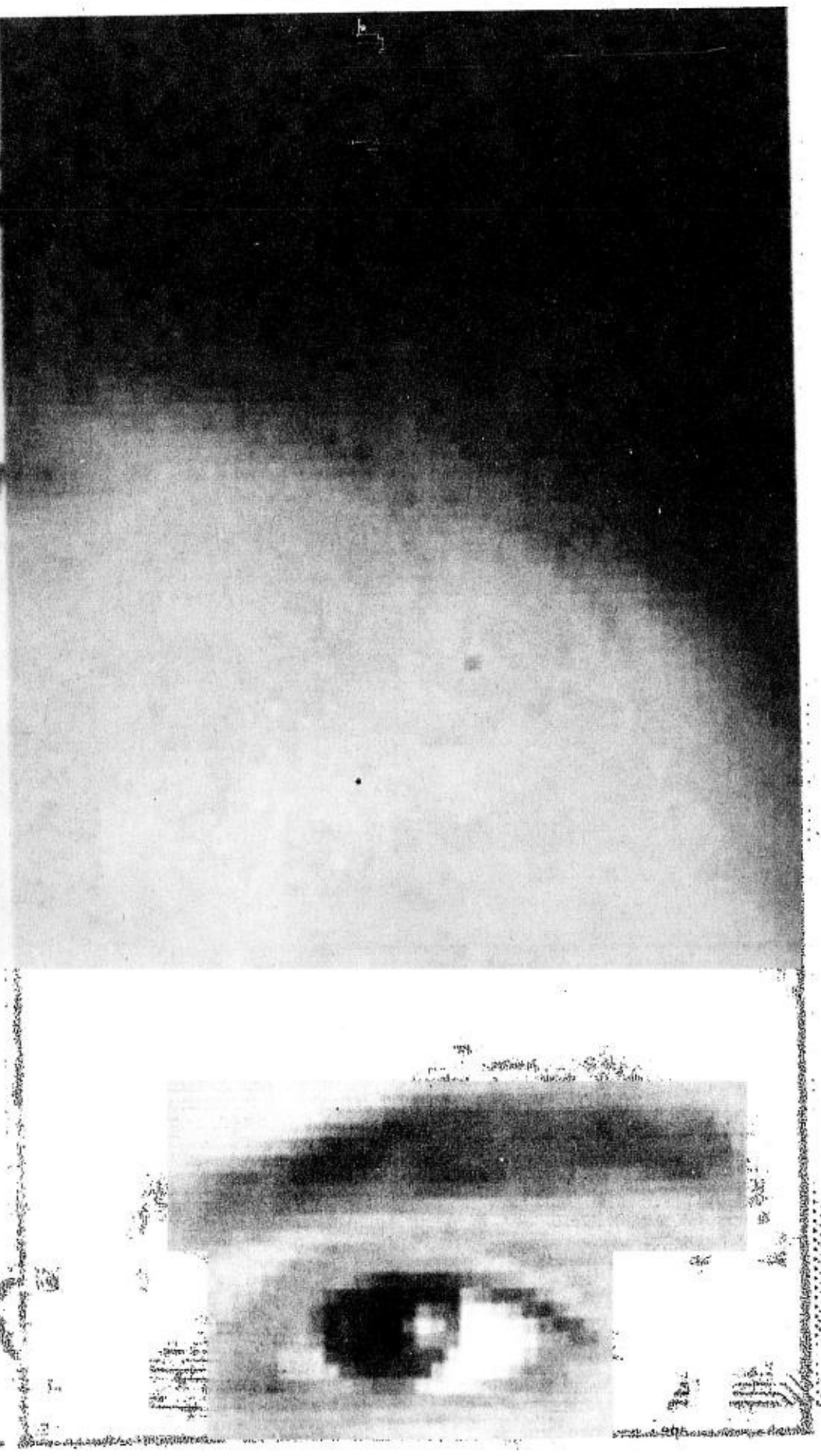


LIGHT, sound and water in bridge scene

'Direk' recreates nature water scenes with profound meanings

FOUNTAIN of rare shells is a collector's item.

Unique waterfall gardens are quintessential Al Quinn

From page F1

terfall gardens. He recreates nature water scenes with profound meanings, hence the titles above, as well as "Vertical Horizon," "Silent Anthem," "Secret Garden" and the likes.

Bonsai and waterscape

Neatly trimmed bonsai trees on an evenly mowed lawn are the distinguishing marks in front of Quinn's residence in Ayala Heights. Spic and span is the immediate impression guests get on knocking at the gate.

But the impression was immediately belied by the scene in his lanai and playroom when we visited him over the weekend. Tools, glue, wire mesh, rocks, stones, corals, driftwood, shells, pots and electrical gadgets filled every possible space. Bonsai trees and dwarfed plants occupied off path corners, while stands of waterfall dish gardens towered over the interesting mess.

"His battleground for the last five to six months," is how Direk's wife Beth Pastrano calls the room. She says, "He wakes up everyday at 5:30 a.m. to play golf, but lately, he's been up two hours earlier to work on his waterfalls, and sometimes he (even) misses his golf games."

We learned from her that Direk played a mean golf game. He just won the second runner-up trophy at the latest Goma Cup tournament in Baguio City beating hard-hitting young golfers Raymart Santiago and musical director Archie Castillo.

Not quite caught up yet in Direk's current preoccupation, Beth has nonetheless taken charge of purchasing heavy-duty pots and dishes for the waterfalls. "We share one thing in common, scuba diving and picking up from the beaches coral pieces, shells and driftwood (swept ashore by the waves)."

Unique rocks and shells

Meditative is the first thing that comes to a viewer's mind in front of a Quinn waterscape. Other artists are content with one volcanic rock or a few pieces of river stones with water simply trickling down to a pool. But Direk first fantasizes a rustic scene and stages it complete with sights, sounds and lighting. Then with his carving tools, turbo glue and cement, he executes his story.

For example, the one-piece boulder in "The Last Frontier" simulates a natural limestone rock wall above the sea. One ledge has the solitary fisherman's hut. A lower ledge has a bridge and dock where a lone boat is moored. Another ledge has a sparse tree grove with mini *papua* shrubs and *sandakot na bigas*, a groundcover. The scene tells the story of the lonely fisherman living a marginal existence.

Many of his smaller works are mood pieces, made with no pre-meditation. "No message is intended for these spontaneous pieces. But I am often surprised with the outcome. Each piece has deep-seated meanings," he admits.

He also works with driftwood, bamboo poles and lots of shells that he calls dead pieces. "With this work I am doing, I bring them back to life, make them beautiful again. I make them sing." Direk explains that he selects the shells according to the sound he wants them to make as water trickles on their surface.

His affinity for water dates back to his childhood days in Iloilo where he recalls spending

MIXED media has shells, driftwood and candles

a lot of time in the river. "I like waterscapes in my painting and sculpture. It is the essence of life, a thought that subconsciously influences my works," he explains.

In most of his waterfall scenes, he generously incorporates shells. "They are from my father's voluminous collection," he says. One of the species is named after his father, a rare specimen which would excite marine scientists, if only they knew. Marine scientists would be agog at the magnificent shell collection, which we were privileged to see.

Ever the screen's dream maker, he adds, "The shells that you see in most pieces have their own stories to tell. My father began collecting them before the Second World War, and they come from different parts of the world, as far as Panama." We didn't discuss in the course of our interview, but we didn't have to be told some of the shells were valuable.

"I thought of donating some of the shells to the museum. In the meantime, I want to share some of them with the public by making them centerpieces of my waterfalls." Direk admits he says a little prayer for his father whenever he glues the water pipe to the shells. Some of the shells, by his own admission, may be a hundred years old or more.

'Quinntessential' flow at Glorietta

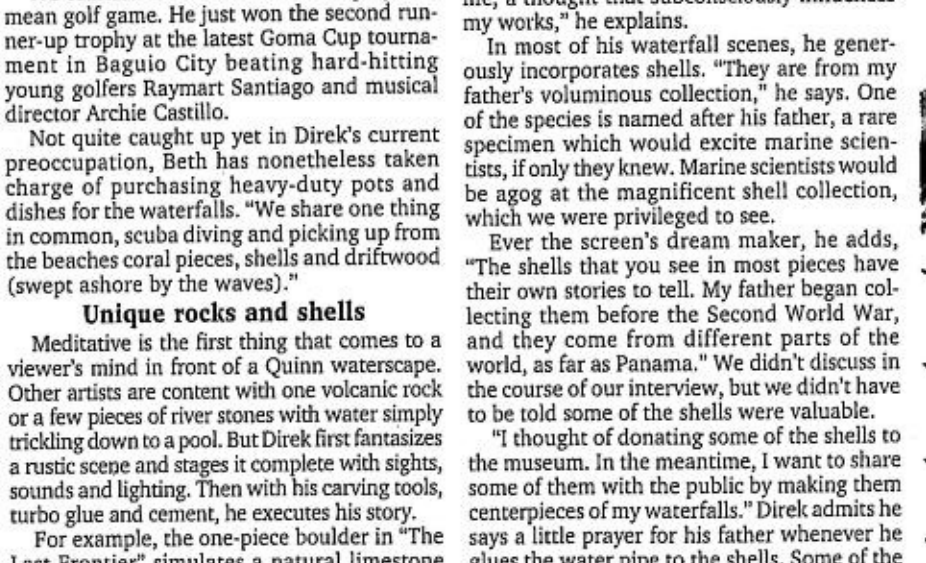
Quinn's one-man exhibit at the Glorietta has all the makings of a box-office hit. Press releases say it will be star-studded at the launch with guests of honor led by Gina Lopez of ABS-CBN, Gretchen Barretto, Mr. and Ms Cesar Montano and Richard Gomez, to name only a few.

After all, Direk has touched the careers of almost every superstar in the entertainment industry. In the late 1950s, he choreographed dance scenes of Pancho Magalona, Tita Duran, Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa, among others. In the '60s and '70s, he directed Bobby Gonzales, Pilita Corrales, Dolphy, Carmen Soriano, and many more.

The television shows he directed include Guy and Pip shows, "Penthouse 7," "Going Bananas," "Manilyn Live," "Loveliness," "Eezy Dancing," "SOP," "GMA Supershow," Pops Fernandez and Gary V. Specials, Sharon Cuneta concerts, and practically all the megashows in town.

For more information about the "Quinntessential Flow" at Glorietta, call 931-2546.

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com



AL Quinn's waterscape scene is all about fisherman's marginal existence.

Elegant, artistic and recycled

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

CAN recycled objects be made to look like new? Can they turn into export-quality items? Yes, they can, judging from the creativity of the people behind many of the booths in the recently concluded Manila FAME International (MFi) trade show.

Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), the affair actually made many Pinoy viewers proud to be Pinoys, after all the mudslinging we've been getting (examples are that Pinoys are corrupt, the cities are dirty, the women are identified with domestic helpers).

Well, the Filipino has proven that recycling can be an art form, and that recycled objects can share the spotlight with the beautiful and the elegant. The trade show at the World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, proved it.

First of all, seashells, carabao horns and seeds are back in fashion, and so are chunky faux jewelry. I had sworn off gold chains in favor of neck scarves, but after a look at our natural bounty, I'm going back to shell and horn necklaces. Carabao horn is polished to high sheen that it almost resembles glass, and when combined with fine wire, it makes elegant pendants, too.

One booth that reflected this turn-to-nature trend was Arnel Papa's ABS Experts. Papa is one of this year's merchandising design consultants. His necklaces are chunky or understated but so beautiful they can be worn anywhere, anytime. Since they have no artificial glitter, they stand on their own natural elegance. Papa says his art is inspired by the natural temperament of his materials. His creations which "make use of cascades of *hishie* shells, coco and horn beads, hooves, mother-of-pearl, with metal speak volumes about the evolution lifestyle principles of raw with polished, precious with valueless, essential with the trivial, tribal with the contemporary."

Earth-inspired

Another company with parallel ideas is Genea (Greek for "circle of life"), manufacturer of wood, coco and shell jewelry. Its official stand on its creations is that they are inspired by the earth's ecosystem, which is why it explores the possibilities of the things that nature leaves behind—seeds and pebbles—transforming them "into items of function and fashion without upsetting the balance of life systems."

And if you think ball pen coils have no more use after the pen's ink dries out, you need only look at the earrings from Nature's Beauty booth to see how beautiful and effective they are as "alternative" gems.

Conrado Velasco, whose designs take off from basic lines thus eliminating useless clutter, makes recycling an art, as when he turned pages of a telephone directory into a pair of dogs. They now add a touch of whimsical art to wherever they are displayed.

Mind Masters, papercraft manufacturer, is another believer in the art of recycling paper. Using pages cut from magazines and directories, it creates table top décor. The pages are left loose on one side to allow them to be flipped, a pleasurable pastime if done carefully. It functions as vase as well, as flowers are tucked in the center of the décor piece.

NGOs in fair trade program

The group that had most to reveal in the area of recycling are four NGOs supported by MFI's fair trade program. The program promotes quality products made by economically disadvantaged artisans and craftsmen. The NGOs are Kilus (Kilusan Iisa ang Layunin Umunlad ang Sambayanan), Golden Showers, Bayan Foundation and Kilusang Pinagkaisahan.

Kilus focuses on fashion accessories, all made from doy packaging (with their glossy laminated look) of fruit juices, sauce and soup mixes, converted into avant garde handbags, shopping bags, slippers, folders and envelopes, with product labels and logos retained, lending a touch of pop art.

Golden Showers is based in Payatas, QC, known as the dumpsite of Metro Manila. Once, people eked out a living there by scavenging. Now they've turned recyclists and as such, make use of oil drums as main resource material. The drums are cut from top to bottom to create candleholders, lampshades, picture frames and a variety of decorative household items.

Kilusang Pinagkaisahan is a self-help organization founded by Makati housewives for low-income families and out-of-school youth. Paper and cartons are recycled into picture frames, desk sets, lap desks, and boxes for jewelry, filing and photos.

Bayan Foundation, sponsored by ABS-CBN, exhibited handmade paper for stationery, bags and wrappers, all made from farm waste.

Plant arts show in Marikina

PLANT art expert Serapion S. Metilla will hold his first one-man plant arts show on May 10-12 at the SOS and Off Price Hallway, Riverbanks Center Mall opposite Loyola Memorial Park, Bonifacio Avenue, Bgy. Barangka, Marikina City.

The various plant arts to be displayed are bonsai, dish gardens or tray landscapes, terrariums, Ikebana, eco-friendly mini waterfalls, pocket gardens, Suiseki (natural stones), water gardens and topiaries. The show aims to disseminate plant arts as a way of making everyone's home eco-friendly.

Bonsai is the art of dwarfing plants into tree-like effect that originated from China but fully developed by the Japanese. Dishgarden is a plant arrangement in a wide, shallow container. Terrarium is gardening inside a glass case. Ikebana, on the other hand, is the Oriental art of flower arrangement emphasizing on lines based on the three main elements—heaven, man and earth with the use of natural flowers. Eco-friendly mini waterfalls, one of the latest trends in gardening art, is an arrangement of various plants grown on a rustic rock of volcanic origin with cascading water that has gurgling sounds reminiscent of a natural waterfall.

Pocket garden is also a plant arrangement cultured in pockets of drift woods or rocks, while water garden is the art of culturing aquatic plants and animals that normally grow in pools or ponds. Suiseki art is a collection of rare but natural stones having unusual coloration or shape that looks like the form of an animal or any figure designed in nature.

The formal opening, a by-invitation-only event, will be on May 9 at 4 p.m. Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Carlos Fernando and Felisa Chiongbian of the Philippine Orchid Society and the United Garden Clubs of the Phils. are the special guests. Apart from Chiongbian, the other sponsors are Mila Sumulong, Missy Ignacio, Joyce Kato, Julie Villareal, Dory Bernabe, Ging delos Reyes of Flower Farm Corp., Gie Bote of Holland Blooms, Dr. and Ms Romeo Gutierrez, Dr. Lupe Lazaro, Liling Nuguid and Jenny Ledonio.

Open free to the public, there will be lecture demonstrations on tray landscaping and mini waterfalls on May 11, and Ikebana and terrarium-making on May 12. All lectures will be held at 3-6 p.m.

Call Sergio Mendoza at 948-9792 or Mett Metilla at 939-4593.

Producers join Glorietta garden show

THE COUNTRY'S leading producers of flowers, foliage and pets will be participating in a 10-day garden show at the Glorietta 3 Park near Landmark and Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City. The show opens today and will run until May 5.

Among the interesting plants that will be on sale are the bromeliads, assorted orchids, cacti and other succulents, bonsai, terrariums, mini waterfalls, tray landscapes, potted annuals, house plants such as *Spathiphyllums, Philodendrons, Dieffenbachias* and rare ornamentals. There will also be fruit-bearing trees, herbs and flowering plants; garden supplies such as fertilizers, sprayers; pets like birds, fishes and guinea pigs; pesticides, pots and vases, gardening implements, accessories and reading materials. Shop for a wide assortment of flowers and horticultural products in preparation for Mother's Day at very affordable prices.

Apart from the exhibits, there will be lecture-demonstrations on Ikebana and mini waterfalls on April 27, 3-6 p.m. Open free to the public, the demonstrator will be Serapion S. Metilla. Some materials will be raffled off to participating audiences.

On May 5, 2-6 p.m., there will be a guinea pig competition to be conducted by the Philippine Federation of Guinea Pig Breeders Inc.

Call 436-6580/0093.

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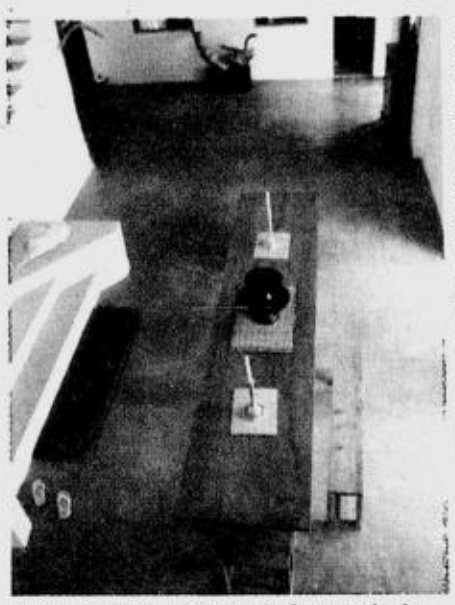
LIFESTYLE

Home

Livin' la vida laid-back



A MONASTIC table, made from a single piece of *molave*, and benches make a dramatic centerpiece in the living room with orthogonal floor patterns.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Bobot Meru

ARTISTE John Glenn Sunga's getaway in Siargao reflects his love for drama—an entrance by the marina, prodigious openings and, take note, a double staircase leading to the east and west wings. As a friend commented, "Only a gay would think of that!"

Sunga is an icon of the Malate culture. His claims to fame are being the original Japayuki, appearing in revues in Japan, impersonating Tina Turner and running the now-defunct Blue Cage, the epitome of bohemian culture in the '90s.

Sunga was born in Surigao City then migrated to Manila to study mass communications at the University of Santo Tomas. However, he was lured by work at the then National Media Production Center and theater and never got to finish his studies. He went to his mother's hometown, Cagayan de Oro City, to study at Xavier and do the merchandising for her store. At the same time, he also worked as a performing artist.

Japayuki

One day, while shopping in Malate for goods for his mother, he bumped into his old friend, Patrick Rosas. The makeup expert "experimented" on Sunga, making him look like a diva. Coincidentally, there was an audition for an all-male revue in Japan. Sunga showed off his terpsichorean skills and got the job. He was in the first group that went to Japan to perform in clubs.

In 1990, he established the Blue Café, which later featured female impersonators for entertainment. One of his actors could not do Tina Turner properly, so Sunga did one show to demonstrate the Turner style. Sunga was a hit and the image stayed on.

Between managing Blue Café, he would hie off to London with his longtime British friend Richard. But running a restaurant-bar took its toll. Sunga was burned out since people who went there were always looking for the colorful owner.

He sold Blue Café in 1997 and returned to Cagayan de Oro. He met Bo Razon who was shooting a travel show. Entranced by Surigao del Norte's natural beauty, Razon showed his shots of Siargao Island in Sunga's home province.

Sunga returned to Surigao after 22 years and found a lot in the island village of Union, which is part of the Dapa municipality. With the money from the sale of Blue Café, he built a two-story home on the rocky land, consulting a local engineer regarding the weather conditions. He built his home with the help of a foreman.

"With all the wallpapers and coffee-table books, you got lost in zillions of ideas," he said.

Colorful

He was always fascinated by the homes of Mexican artist Luis Barragan, which were characterized by concrete textures and colorful walls. Although his materials were basic, the result was elegant and cozy.

Sunga trusted his instincts and played with the voluminous space. The 240-sq-m home is made of concrete with *nipa* roofing, done in Samar style. Islands of furniture and found objects are thoughtfully arranged throughout the house. Sunga brought pieces from his Manila home and had some made such as the long dining table from a giant slab of *molave*. The décor is sparse so as not to compete with the island panorama. Huge windows and portholes frame the view. One gets to enjoy the scenery from different parts of the house. The house faces an inlet leading to the Pacific Ocean. Boulders enclose the façade; the back of the house faces the hills.

"Even if you're in the bathroom, you have a view of the palm trees, the water, the sandbar and Pansukian Island," said Sunga.

The house plays up orthogonal or rectangular patterns, except for the curved well in

LIVIN'/ p.G2

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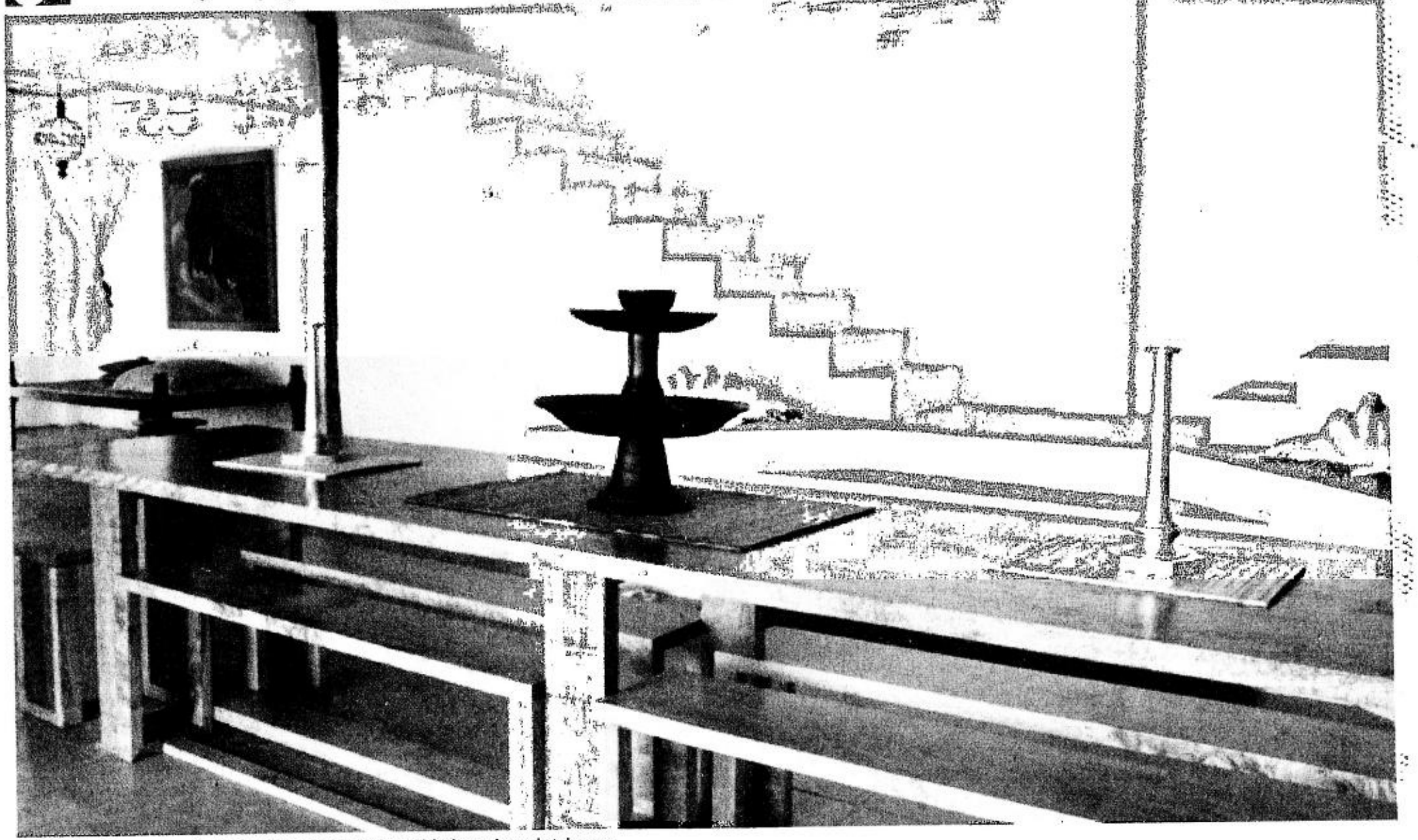
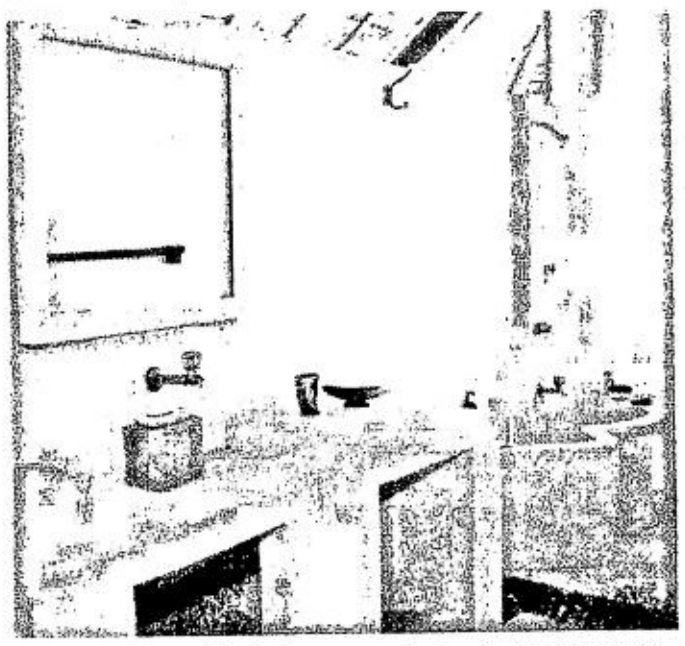


BRAVURA. The spartan abode is made to look luxurious with the sculptural staircases.

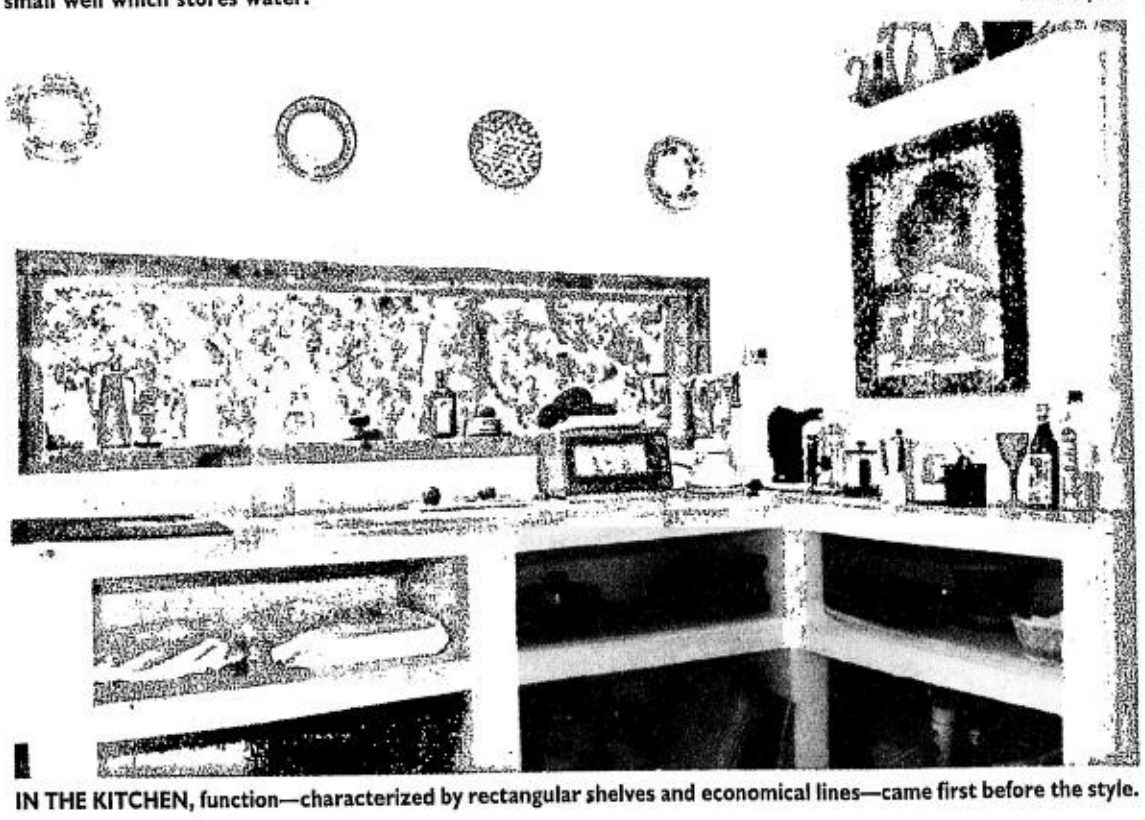
Livin' la vida laid-back

The corridors look like catwalks and some guests have even played at being divas—waving from the second floor and making a dramatic descent down the steps

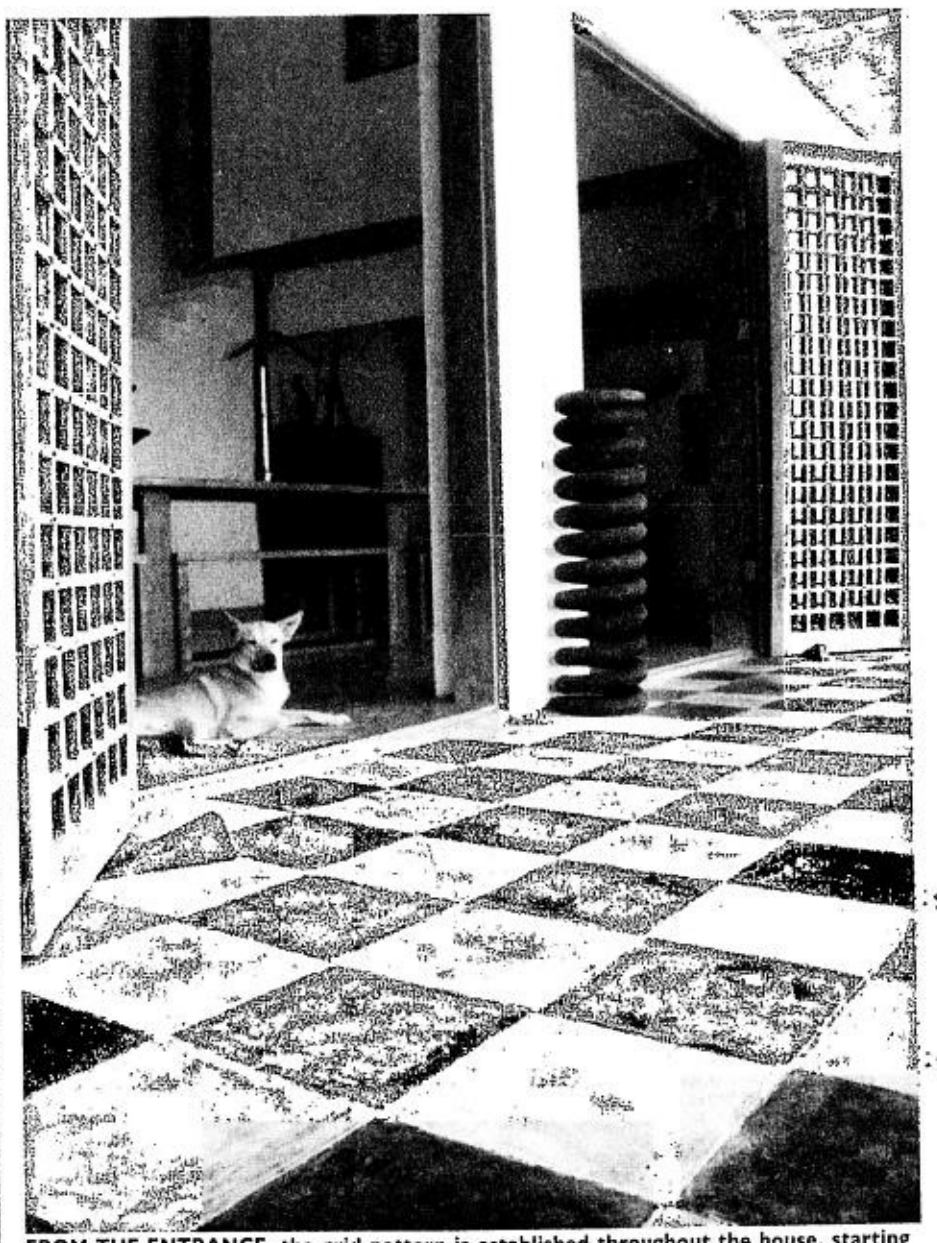
LIVIN'/ p.G3



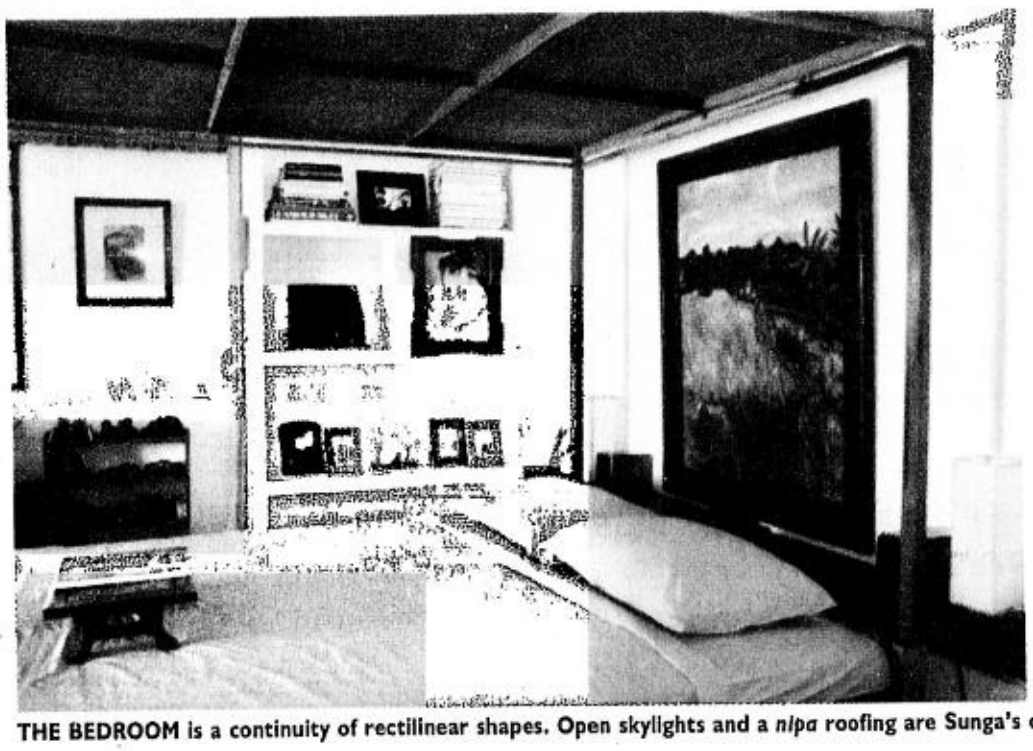
THE RIGID lines of the bathroom are broken by the curves of a small well which stores water.



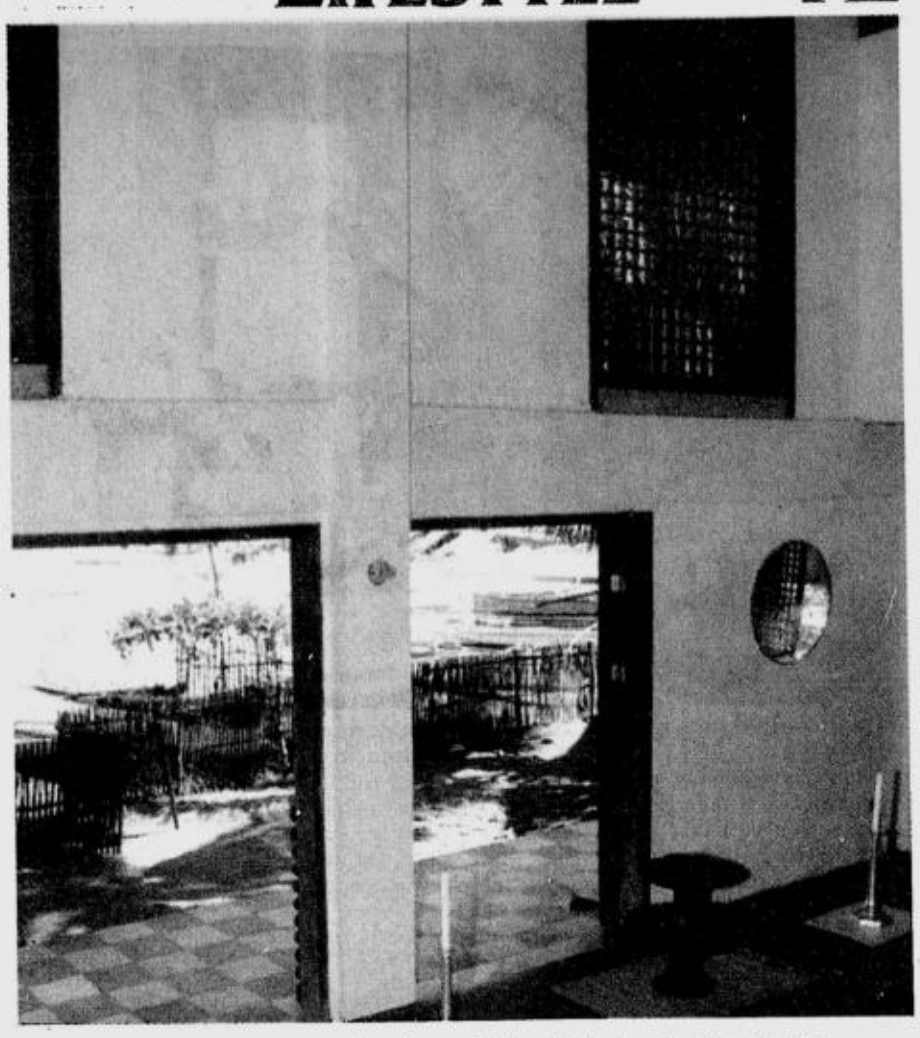
IN THE KITCHEN, function—characterized by rectangular shelves and economical lines—came first before the style.



FROM THE ENTRANCE, the grid pattern is established throughout the house, starting with the overcalled doors with lattice and checkerboard tiles. A spring coil from a bulldozer serves as an artwork. Filipino architecture is reflected in the bamboo overhang.



THE BEDROOM is a continuity of rectilinear shapes. Open skylights and a *nipa* roofing are Sunga's concessions to island living.



THE TWO-STORY ceiling maximizes the ventilation in the tropics. Huge lattice windows and openings show the view of the marina.

Livin' la vida laid-back

From page G2

the bathroom which stores water. Although the lines of his home are austere, Sunga's drama comes out subconsciously. The piece de resistance is the double staircase that leads to the open corridors to the master bedroom and guestroom. Guests joke that the corridors look more like catwalks and some have even played at being divas—waving from the second floor and making a dramatic descent down the steps. Sunga said the staircase was built for practical reasons—so that the owner or the guest would have some privacy and wouldn't disturb each other.

The huge stair landings could also double as mini-stages.

The kitchen evokes fun in the play of various shades of blue. It is enlivened by collections of gewgaws. Humor is displayed in the doors, made of old wooden planks with cracks. Instead of fixing up the cracks, Sunga used them as a design motif.

Life is peaceful in Siargao, away from news of bombings and kidnappings. Sunga spends his time there reading. Siargao homeowners have their own pump boats to get from one island to the other. When Sunga feels like taking a dip, he only has to sail to Daku Island for a swim.

That's the privileged life in Siargao, which is going to be the next big thing. Sunga is lucky to be one of the first urban dwellers to enjoy its pristine beauty.

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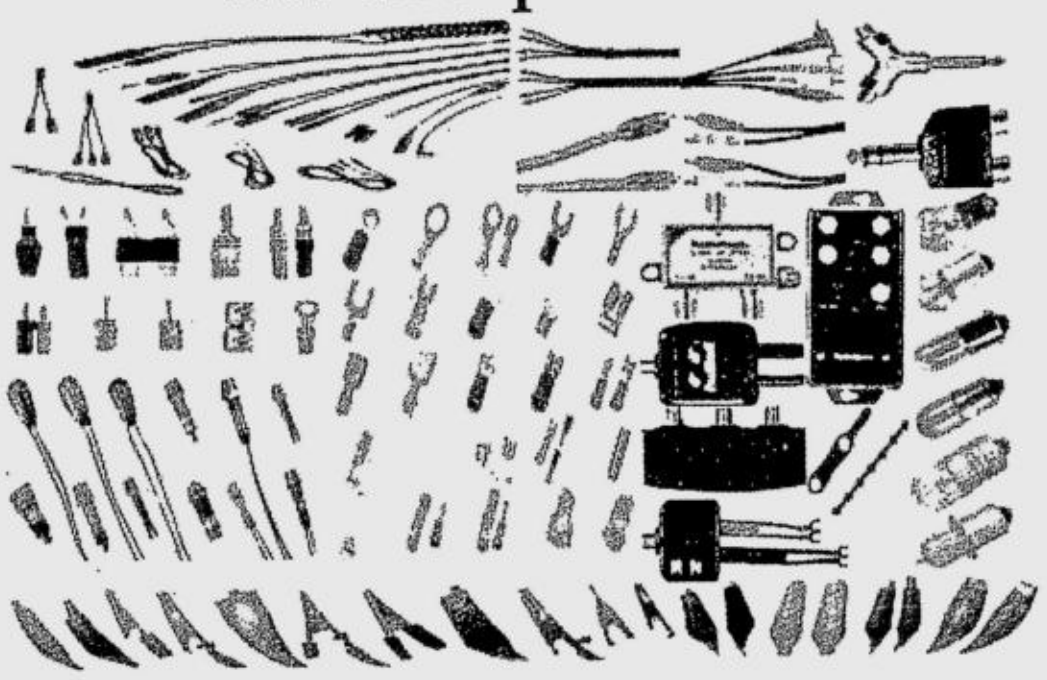

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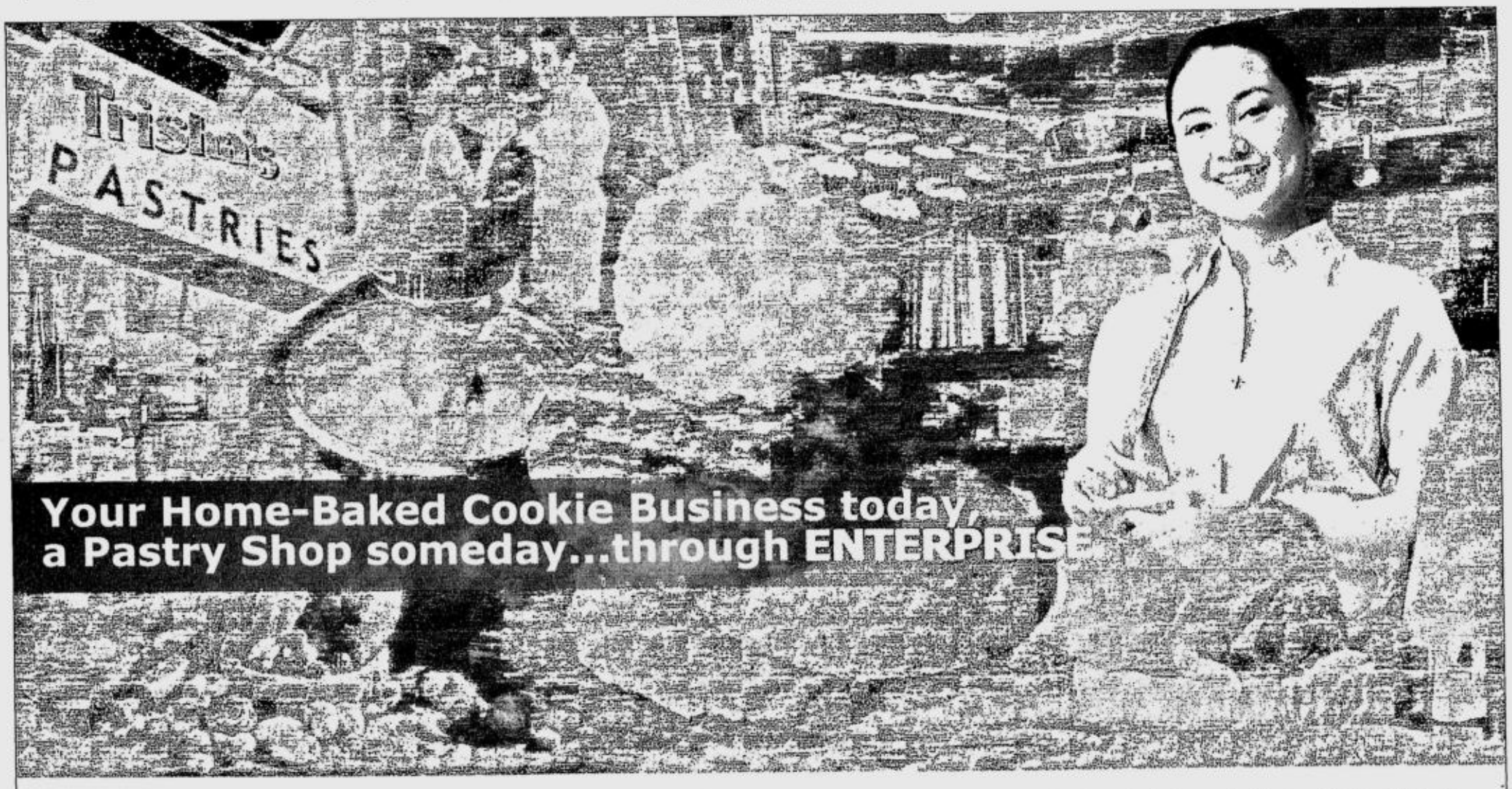

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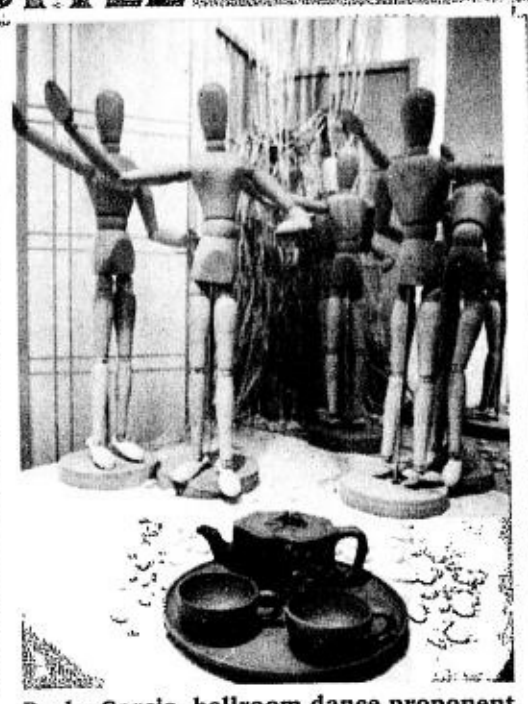
Impy Pilapil, sculptor

Pilapil's whale sculpture in polished gray marble and stainless steel is centerpiece amid the red and white tea set. She coordinates the pieces with white foam placemats and round glass-topped table with a cylindrical stainless steel base.

Margarita Fores, restaurateur

One of Manila's stylish women favors her signature colors—black, white and orange. She picks out artsy pieces such as bent water glasses in sunshine yellow, orange and white tea cups and saucers, an orange teapot, and a black-and-orange glazed ceramic food bowl. They are placed atop her favorite white cutwork overlay and black tablecloth. Black tulip chairs add drama.



Becky Garcia, ballroom dance proponent (styled by Junjun Ablaza)

This dancing queen favors the tea set in brown and bronze green earthenware. Dolls in unpolished light wood in dance poses make up the centerpiece. White pebbles scattered on the table, dried bamboo branches and straw and a three-screen panel of paper and wood complete the setting.

Vicki Belo, dermatologist (styled by Ivy and Cynthia Almario)

East-meets-West is shown in the Oriental chairs and table, the multileveled pagoda-roofed tea stand, rose-shaped tea cups in pink and pale avocado green. The classic, two-tiered silver pastry tray provides the Western touch.

Tea-tillating fare

Photos by Edwin Tuyay

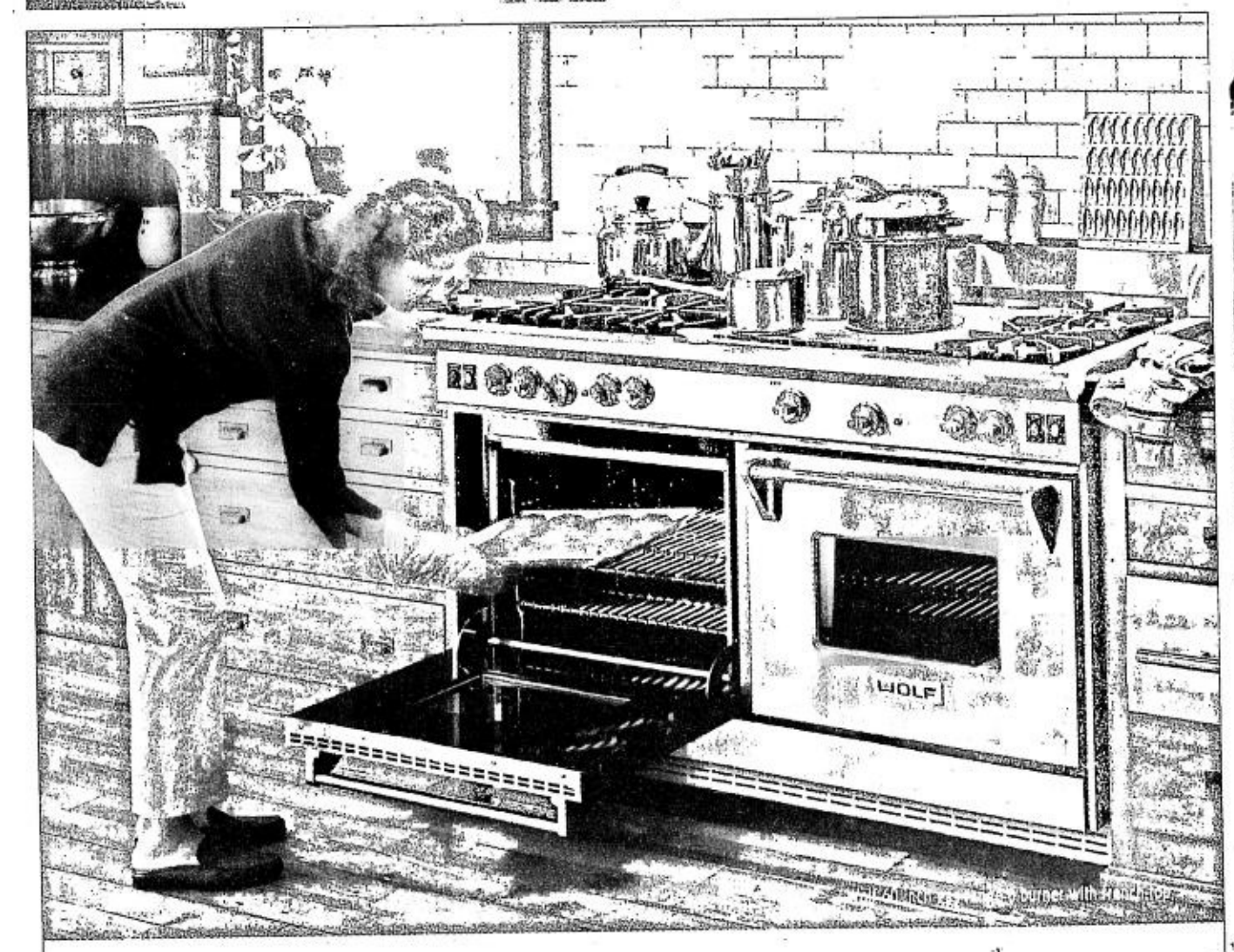
HOTEL Inter-Continental Manila presents celebrity table settings, with a little help from their stylists. The exhibit will run through May 19 at the lobby.

Lizzie Zobel, civic worker

The tycoon's wife draws inspiration from the English rose. She uses heirloom porcelain chinaware in varied floral designs. Although the plates, saucers and cups are of different make, they all carry a flower motif. She also uses antique silver tea and coffeepots and water goblets, two-tiered pastry holder in clear glass and a white porcelain finger sandwich tray with an avian divider. What could be more classic than a white floor-length tablecloth with embroidered floral wreath patterns. Fresh pink rosebud centerpiece is by Antonio Garcia of Mabolo.

Mario Katigbak, entrepreneur (styled by Ito Kish)

Serenity can also have a masculine touch. An interplay of black lacquer, silver and celadon, the setting is actually a melange of cultures—Vietnamese celadonware; Zen-inspired wooden table from Indonesia; Japanese *tatami* floor pillows topped by snake-print, fabric-covered, smaller-sized ones. Burmese Buddhist urns serving as candleholders are set on Iranian tiles with green and beige patterns. Three steel arch lamps balance off the setting.



Rachy Cuna, design consultant

Cuna creates an outdoor setting for two. For someone who avoids the sun, it's not unusual that he'll use a parasol in rich green and gold floral-patterned fabric. He brings out his Oriental flair with the use of tall tea cups in etched glass and silver, a jade flat tray, a jade bowl filled with green plums, and a glass teapot on small teak stand. The jade bead necklace and single green cattleya complete the noble oriental setting on a circular clear glass-topped table with an intricately carved and nacre and gemstone-encrusted base.

Edith Oliveros, interior designer

Bulol (Kankanay tribe rice god) figure carved out of wood makes an interesting tablepiece as a floral arrangement holder. It is surrounded by glazed ceramic tea mugs in blood red that are placed on hand-carved wooden saucers; teapot and water glasses are also in blood red glazed ceramic; beads and yarn napkin holders and silver teaspoons with red and black yarn-wrapped handles. The tribal fabric makes a black floor-length tablecloth.

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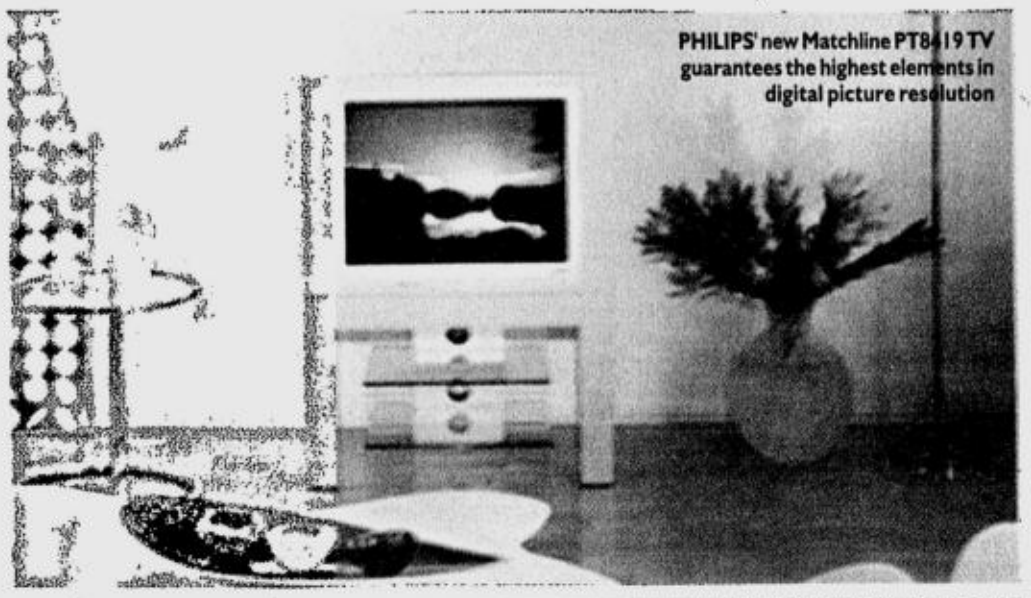
Philips brings first digital-ready TV in RP



PHILIPS' new Matchline PT8419 TV guarantees the highest elements in digital picture resolution

IN THE NEAR future, TV viewers can expect a whole new way of watching their favorite shows on the tube. With the advent of exciting new technologies, TV is now ready to move towards the digital age, when TV signals are sent with lightning speed that totally enhances the quality of images on the screen.

And Philips now brings you the new Matchline PT8419 television that answers the need for today's TVs that can provide all the benefits of digital broadcast.

For starters, Philips Matchline PT8419 is the first HDTV-ready monitor available in the market. HDTV stands for High Definition Television, a new technology that guarantees the highest elements in digital picture resolution. This makes the PT8419 a future-proof TV when digital broadcasts finally reach wide-market status.

Because the PT81419 is HDTV-ready, your set has superb scanning capability, able to display clearer and sharper digital images. This set will ensure that you can enjoy all the benefits of digital TV, which is already on its way to becoming the standard of TV viewing in the years to come.

Complementing this feature is the Progressive Scan technology, which provides sharper pictures, with no blurred visuals or flicker. This is because the Progressive Scan technology can process the image lines faster than ordinary TVs, resulting in a much smoother, more film-like structure. With this feature, pictures look more solid and stable, allowing your eyes to relax as you relax in front of the TV.

Picture resolution is further enhanced with the Crystal Clear III feature that includes the Dynamic Contrast and Digital Comb Filter functions. This feature provides for better separation of brightness and color signals to eliminate cross-luminance and distortion.

Enjoy two great programs at the same time, as the Matchline PT8419's Full Double Screen allows for viewing of two channels simultaneously. And because it's HDTV Ready, this TV can support advanced video inputs such as Progressive DVD-Video and Digital SetTop Box for superb color performance.

Complementing the awesome picture is the great sound, courtesy of the Matchline PT8419's Virtual Dolby Surround. The enhanced surround sound effect is created with just two front speakers.

The Philips Matchline PT8419 TV is available in 29" and 34".

Complementing the awesome picture is the great sound, courtesy of the Matchline PT8419's Virtual Dolby Surround. The enhanced surround sound effect is created with just two front speakers.

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More Air Conditioners Sold By Automatic Centre Than Any Other Appliance Dealer

IT'S HARD to keep cool during summer. And during this time of the year, more people are looking for efficient air conditioners that give them comfort from the heat outside. And only at Automatic Centre can they find a wide range of air conditioners that suit every person's need.

In its over 53 years of retailing existence, no other appliance store has come close to Automatic Centre when it comes to selling air conditioners. It is the only store that has sold more air conditioning units that any other appliance retailer in the Philippines. Being one of the forerunners in appliance retailing, many Filipinos have trusted the name Automatic Centre when it comes to home and office appliances.

Automatic Centre boasts not only of a wide variety of air conditioner brands and models, but also other appliance and audio-video products, making sure that there is a product just right for every Filipino. And with a dedicated sales force and branch network, you are sure to get only quality customer service no other appliance store can give. Truly, Automatic Centre lives up to its status as the appliance retail outlet committed to give only the best in products and services for the Filipino customer.

How To Choose An Air Conditioner

WANT TO buy a new air conditioner this year? Automatic Centre gives you some tips on shopping for air conditioners.

Choose one that is just right for the size of the room you want cooled. A bigger air conditioner doesn't always mean better performance. It is important that you match the cooling power to the size of the room. A lower cooling capacity would not cool the room efficiently, while a too high capacity will cool the area quickly, but at a higher energy cost.

Another way of choosing the right air conditioner is to compare the Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) with the size of the room you want cooled. Find the one with the highest EER. Air conditioners with EERs of 9.5 and above use less electricity, thus they cool more efficiently.

Also, look for an air conditioner that is easy to use and maintain. Models that have timers are ideal for those who want their rooms cooled when they come home from work or from outdoors. Timers turn air conditioners on and off any time you wish, so your room is kept cool even if you're not in it.

Models with remote control units are obviously very convenient to use as you don't need to go near the air conditioner to operate it or adjust its settings.

Air conditioners should also not make a lot of noise and vibration. Choose units that have a low noise feature so you could enjoy doing your favorite activities while your room is being cooled quietly.

Visit your nearest Automatic Centre for more advice on choosing the right air conditioner for you.

Using Air Conditioners Economically

AIR CONDITIONERS are used more frequently especially during summer. That's why Automatic Centre shares some tips on using your cooling units efficiently this hot season.

Keep your drapes or blinds closed during the day to prevent sunlight from entering the room. You can also install canopies and sunshades outside your home to keep solar heat from coming in. Trees and large shrubs can also help control the amount of light entering your window.

Keep windows and doors closed during the day to let cool air circulate around the room. At night, when the climate is cooler, turn off the air conditioner, open the windows and take advantage of the natural cool air outside.

When the climate is still hot at night, especially during the summer, set the timer of your air conditioner to turn off early in the morning. By this time, air from outside gets cooler. The cooler air inside is maintained until sunup.

Heat from household appliances also increases the temperature inside the room. Turn off lights and appliances when not in use. Activities such as dishwashing, clothes washing, cooking and others that can cause heat and moisture build-up should be done in the cooler hours of the day or in the evening since these cause your air conditioners to work extra hard to keep the area cool.

It is also important that you properly maintain your air conditioners. Clean or replace filters regularly. The proper placement of furniture and other appliances also helps your units to run more efficiently as it does not interfere with the flow of the air coming in and out of your air conditioner. Always refer to your air conditioner's instruction manual for proper maintenance.

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Philips' breakthrough wOOx technology with summer giveaways promo

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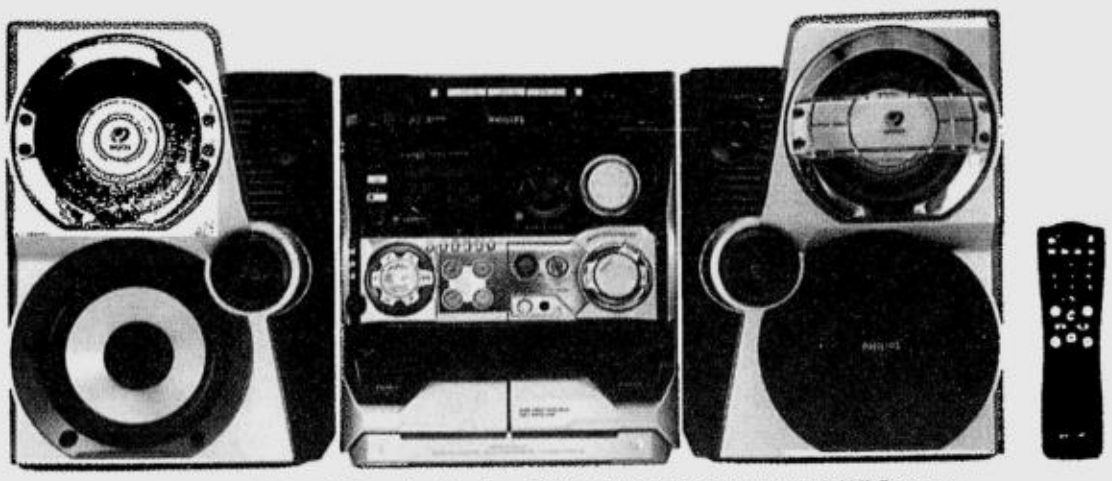
Philips' exciting promo lets you take home exciting free items just by purchasing Philips' superb audio equipment. The freebie package includes (3) great movie VCDs, two Karaoke VCDs, a microphone for those sing-along moments or a cool VCD organizer for your movie collection.

Among the cool audio equipment available are the FW-V780 and the FW-V720, two mini hi-fi systems that packs the breakthrough wOOx technology. This unique Philips innovation delivers outstanding bass reproduction never before achieved in mini components, giving you booming bass sound whenever and wherever you want it.

Get these amazingly high-tech audio equipment plus great freebies all from Philips. Visit any authorized Philips dealer and take home your awesome Philips VCD mini Hi-Fi and giveaway and enjoy countless hours of fun and entertainment.

Philips' Summer Load of Giveaways promo is extended up to May 31.



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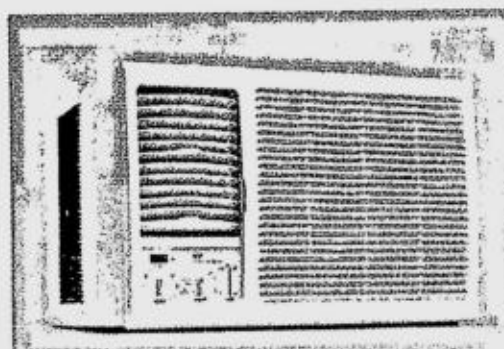


The size is right

HAVING AN AIR CONDITIONER at home is certainly a blessed relief for Filipinos, given the country's perennially hot and humid climate. But most people hesitate to turn the aircon on—or buy one in the first place—for fear of running up a huge electric bill.

This notion is not entirely true. While an aircon consumes more electricity than, say, an electric fan, it's having the wrong-sized aircon that's the real cause of high electric bills. An undersized one is constantly overworked, so you spend more on electricity even if your room isn't sufficiently cooled.

On the other hand, an oversized aircon results in an uncomfortably cold and dry atmosphere, posing a potential health hazard for the room's occupants.

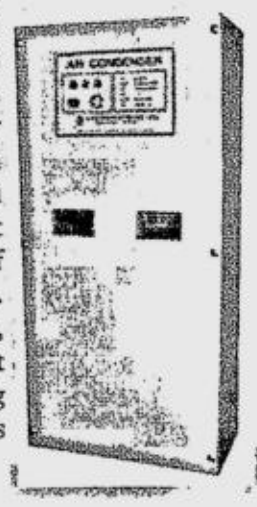
It also operates on a higher cooling level than what is needed, so your energy consumption increases as well. And as if that's not bad enough, you also spend more on the unit itself.

Clearly, the solution to these aircon woes lies in choosing a unit that's just the right size for your room. Before buying one though, it's advisable that you accomplish the following checklist.

1. Know the floor size of the room (in square meters).
2. Get the distance between the ceiling and the floor (in feet).
3. Count the number of windows and measure their height and width (in feet). Half-sized windows measure 4 feet tall, while full-sized ones are 6 feet tall.
4. Check the room if it's insulated or located in between floors.
5. Get the total number of people usually staying in the room.
6. Count the total number of lights in the room and their wattage.

Once you have all these information on hand, you can now consult an LG Aircon Specialist as your preferred appliance store. Taking all these factors into consideration, he will then recommend the most suitable unit for your needs. And since this consultation is completely free of charge and obligation, you'll be saving on your aircon expenses even before you start using it.

So be wise. Choose the right size. It's high time your aircon brings you the comfort instead of headaches. After all, isn't that what having an aircon is all about?



Dell PCs gain popularity in RP

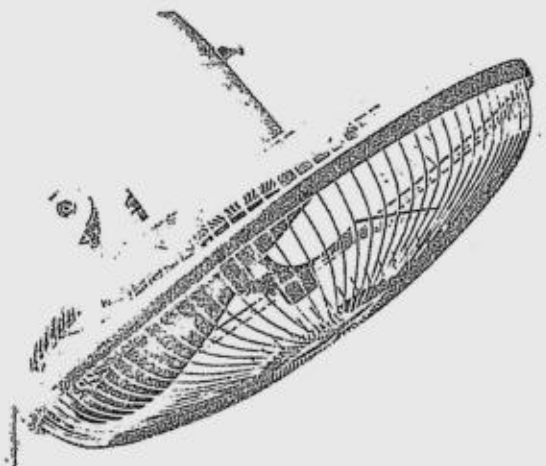
A NEW player in the local IT industry, Dell was introduced in the country towards the end of last year. Being a globally recognized brand, it is not a surprise to see that clients in the Philippines are mostly foreigners and expatriates familiar with the brand from their home countries. By offering reliable and powerful machines at aggressive prices, Dell has steadily become the preference of Filipino consumers and professionals as well.

The main products under Dell's personal and multimedia computers are the Dimension Desktops and Inspiron Notebooks. Both Dimension and Inspiron are designed for home users and small-to-medium-sized businesses looking for optimum performance built with the latest technology at friendly prices.

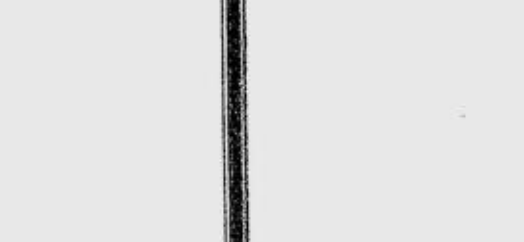
Powered by Pentium 4 processors, the Dimension 4400 is the latest desktop model from Dell. This stylish midnight gray desktop features Intel's new 845 chipset with DDR memory support. The DDR SDRAM (Double Data Rate SDRAM) has twice the transfer rate of traditional SDRAM, providing more bandwidth and additional performance for applications such as digital photos, music, videos and web content creation. The Dimension 4400 also features an easy-to-open casing that allows for tool-less parts upgrade. Packed with power and performance for only P49,995 is simply a great buy.

Inquiries are welcome at delldirect@lamco.com.ph or at hotline 634-7999 loc. 253.

Ang mataas na Standard

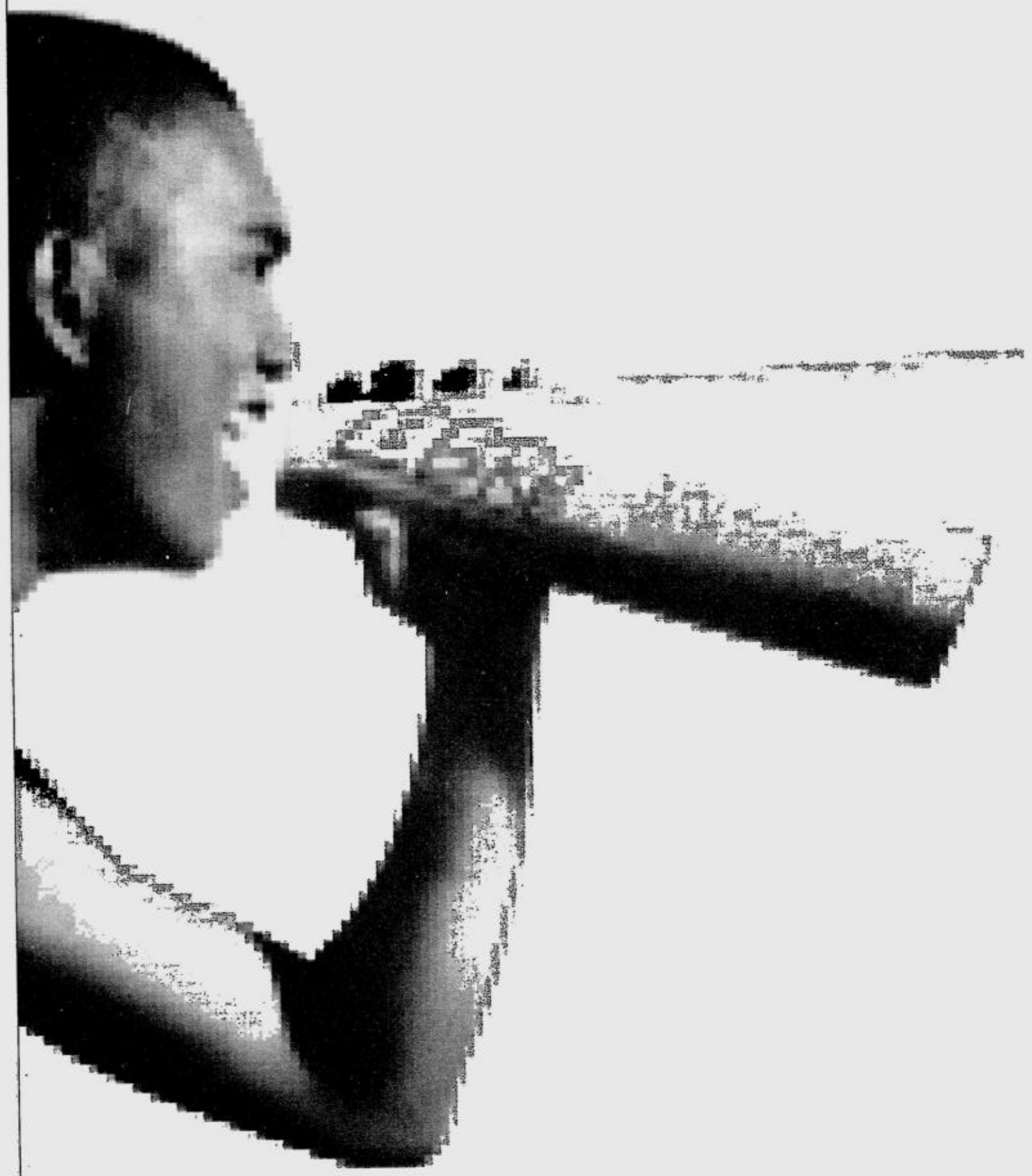


nag-bow ang Presyo!



Price reductions on the most popular Standard Electric Fan models!
Sa hirap ng buhay ngayon, ito ang aming munting paraan para makatulong sa 'yo.

STANDARD®
TATAK STANDARD



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The Best Things in Life Are LIBRE

The secret to cost savings is found in fine print

YOU GO SHOPPING for a new refrigerator, and you're on a budget. The best buy is the fridge with the lowest sales price, right?

Not necessarily. If you buy the lowest-priced refrigerator, you may end up spending more than if you buy a more expensive one.

The reason? The cost of owning a home appliance has three components: the initial purchase price, the cost of repairs and maintenance, and the cost to operate it.

To figure out how much you'll spend over the lifetime of the appliance, you have to look at *all* these costs. The appliance with the lowest initial purchase price, or even the one with the best repair record, isn't necessarily the one that costs the least to operate.

Here's an example of how an appliance's energy consumption can affect your out-of-pocket costs.

Suppose you're in the market for a new refrigerator-freezer. Different models of refrigerators with the same capacity can vary dramatically in the amount of electricity they use.

For one popular size and configuration, for example, the annual electricity consumption varies across models from a low of about 600 kilowatt-hours a year to a high of more than 800 kilowatt-hours a year.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance that you're thinking about buying through the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label it displays.

When you shop for one of these appliances in a dealer's showroom, you should find the labels hanging on the inside of an appliance or secured to the outside. The labels specify:

- The capacity of the particular model
- For refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers and water heaters, the estimated annual energy consumption of the model
- For air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, boilers and pool heaters, the energy efficiency rating
- The range of estimated annual energy consumption, or energy efficiency ratings, of comparable appliances.

Some appliances also may feature the EnergyStar logo, which means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average comparable model. For more information on the EnergyStar program, visit the EnergyStar website at www.energystar.gov.

For an energy-smart deal on your next appliance...

- Read the EnergyGuide label.
- Compare the energy use of competing models.
- Estimate their differences in energy costs.
- Consider both purchase price and estimated energy use when deciding which brand and model to buy.

Why should I care about energy efficiency?

The more energy efficient an appliance is, the less it costs to run, and the lower your utility bills. Using less energy is good for the environment, too; it can reduce air pollution and help conserve natural resources.

Don't all appliances have to be energy efficient?

All major home appliances must meet energy conservation standards set by the law. But many appliances beat the standard, use even less energy and cost less to run.

What makes one appliance more efficient than another?

Most of the differences are on the inside — in the motors, compressors, pumps, valves, gaskets and seals, or in electronic sensors that make appliances "smarter." Even if two models look the same from the outside, less-obvious inside features can mean a big difference in your monthly utility bills.

How can I be sure energy efficiency claims aren't just sales hype?

Manufacturers must use standard test procedures to prove the energy use and efficiency of their products. Many have these tests performed by independent laboratories. The test results are printed on the EnergyGuide labels, which manufacturers are required to put on many of their appliances.

What's the purpose of EnergyGuide labels?

The EnergyGuide labels help you compare the efficiency or annual energy use of competing brands and similar models. Look for the labels on clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerator/freezers, room air conditioners, water heaters, pool heaters and on central home heating and cooling equipment. If you don't see an EnergyGuide label, ask a salesperson for the information.

Shopping Strategy

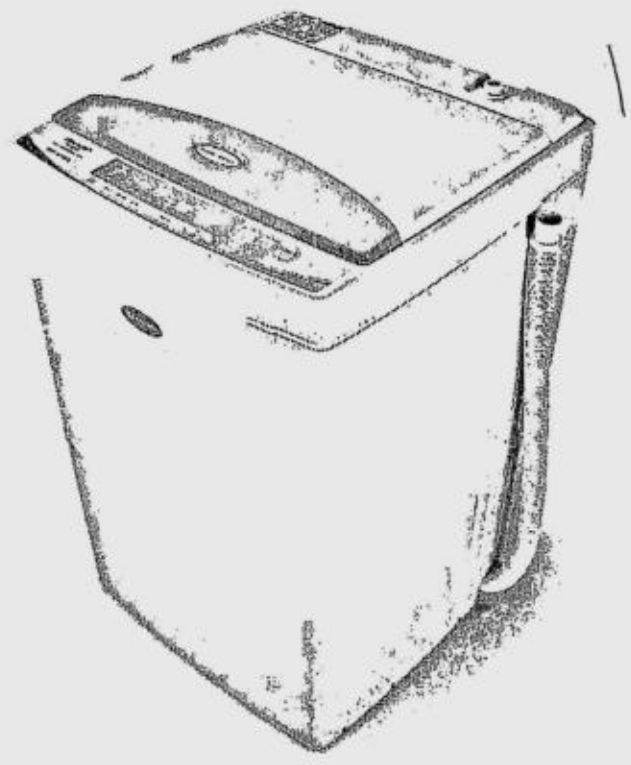
1. Select the size and style. Measure the space the appliance will occupy to be sure your new purchase will fit. Make sure that you'll have enough room to open the door or lid fully and enough clearance for ventilation. This may help you narrow your choices as you settle on the best capacity and style.

2. Know where to shop. Appliance outlets, electronics stores and local retailers carry different brands and models. Dealers also sell appliances through print catalogs and the Internet.

3. Compare the performance of different brands and models. Ask to see the

THESECRET/H8

It wipes out dirt, grime, stains, and the competition.



SHARP
Always Ahead. Always Sharp.

Sharp sells more washing machines in the Philippines than any other brand. So if you're looking for the brand more Filipinos trust, choose Sharp. The washing machine that leaves the competition eating dust.

Fully Automatic Models

ES-701XP
7.0 kg. dry load capacity

ES-601XP
6.0 kg. dry load capacity

Twin Tub Models

ES-539T
5.5 kg. dry load capacity

ES-429T
4.2 kg. dry load capacity

ES-3300T
3.3 kg. dry load capacity

Single Tub Washers

ES-622W
6.2 kg. dry load capacity

ES-421W
4.2 kg. dry load capacity

ES-5200W
5.2 kg. dry load capacity

Striving for leadership in microwave ovens

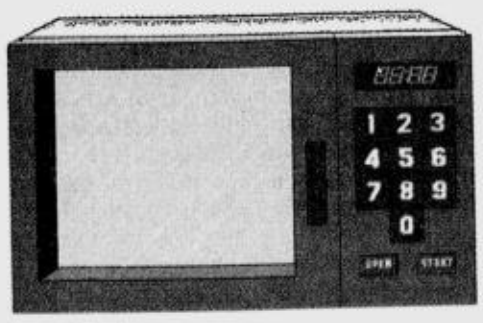
HE XIANGJIAN, president of Midea Group, announced an additional investment totaling RMB850 million to build a powerful industry chain. The increased investment will be used mainly in collaboration with world-famous companies on product and manufacturing facilities to build a new microwave oven industry chain, including production of magnetic-control pipes, transformers, temperature controllers and microwave ovens.

To build a complete chain has always been a key competitive strategy of Midea Group. Through the establishment of a microwave oven industry chain, general assembly lines will reach 40 at an annual output of 9.5 million units, indicating that the company will become, globally, the most powerful microwave oven maker.

Following a marketing scheme beginning in 1995, its microwave oven company was officially commissioned in October 1999. In February 2001, it was ranked second in its category for a 15.15-percent market share. Monthly sales surpassed 300,000 units.

In the global market, it has achieved the recognition of distributors. From the start of 2001, products exported to Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Indonesia, India and other regions have been delivered in batches. It is estimated that export volume of the current year will exceed 1 million units,

As mainstream products in western countries, microwave ovens fulfill a need among customers. Recently, Chinese manufacturing have started to play an important role in the market at home and abroad. Microwave oven production bases have gradually moved from developed European and American countries to East Asia, especially China, Since 1999, Chinese export volume increased 70 percent annually.



In 2000, total export exceeded 7.5 million units. Now, the Midea Group has entered the microwave oven market.

Enjoying a good reputation for its exports of electric fans, air-conditioners and rice cookers, Midea has a wide and steady sales network covering more than 70 countries. Home appliances exports involve market research, product development and research, manufacturing technology, certification, contact with clients and market expansion. As a new challenger in the microwave oven market, its success relies much on its experience in air conditioning manufacturing, as well as its wide market network.

A substantial investment, advanced productive management and growing brand appeal would improve its competitive edge in the global market, however. In the coming years, with the implementation of its second-stage project, Midea strives to be a leader in the microwave oven industry.

Midea microwave ovens, electric fans, rice cookers and water dispensers are exclusively distributed by Continental Sales, Inc. For more product inquiries and after sales service, call 362-5886/87 or 89.

'Appliance Installment Fiesta'

SM APPLIANCE CENTER, together with Citibank, is proud to offer the "Appliance Installment Fiesta", started last April 18, 2002 and will go up to May 5 of this year. It's simply irresistible because there are 37 brands that are participating in the ongoing event at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. Citibank is offering its "Below zero percent!" interest rate and it will be applicable for purchases made under the six-month plan. The catch is with a below zero interest rate, you'll be paying even lower than if you were to pay in cash. Now, more than ever, consumers can purchase their desired appliances in a jiffy. Imagine, you can purchase items you've been longing for at a lower rate and on a plan that allows you to pay only what you can over the next six months. This is an investment made wisely.

Hurry to the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall to witness and purchase appliances from the following participating brands: Toshiba, Panasonic, Pioneer, JVC, Philips, Sony, Aiwa, Samsung, Polytron, LG, JVL, Kenwood, Sanyo, Smeg, Fisher and Paykel, La Germania, Elba, Ariston, GE, Magic Chef, American Homes, Maytag, Union, Maytag Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Aricon-Ref, Fedders, Koppel, Kolin, Uniaire, York, Whirlpool, Haier, Frigidaire, Akira, Casiotone, Peripherals, Quicksilver-Playstation, Canon, Moulinex, Krups, Dowell, Omron and Tefal. Now, this is an extra bonus for everyone who wishes to buy all the appliances at a lower rate. And you don't have to go from one store to another to find everything you need, whether it's a gift for somebody or a treat for yourself.

Haier goes global quietly

IN THE PAST few years, Haier has quietly become the world's sixth largest home-appliance maker. Based in the coastal city of Qingdao and led by a quality-obsessed 52-year old CEO, Zhang Ruimin, Haier already has factories in Asia, Europe and the United States. There, it produces goods from washing machines to microwaves, along with an array of consumer products such as cell phones, TVs and PC peripherals.

Global sales topped $7 billion last year, while profits approached $100 million. The company has been publicly traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange since 1992.

In the United States, Haier has already grabbed 60 percent of the market for refrigerated wine cellars in just two years, and its $200-million revenue is projected to double this year. Haier in 2000 opened a $35-million fridge factory in Camden, South Carolina.

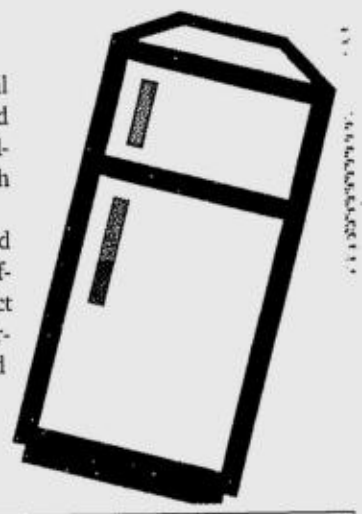
"We're a global firm and we wanted to show our commitment to the US market", says Michael Jemal, 36. president of Haier America.

A few years ago, Haier noticed that American college students wanted locks on fridge doors and that hotels wanted an auto-defrost feature. The big manufacturers weren't delivering. So Haier did, and added style to the mix, making ice boxes in different colors and producing a sleek stainless steel unit. The firm has captured 40 percent of US sales.

China's entry into the WTO helps explain Haier's push into other foreign markets. Taking a cue from IBM, Haier is also diversifying beyond the box business into services; last month the company announced an alliance with New York Life to sell insurances in China.

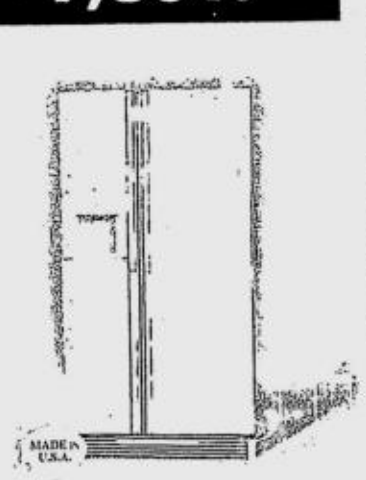
By this time next year, Jemal predicts, the firm will have earned global revenues between $10 billion and $12 billion–good enough for a a spot on the global 500.

Haier is exclusively distributed by Continental Sales Inc., an affiliate of LKG Group. For product inquiries and for after sales service, call 362-5886/87/89 and 363-7193.



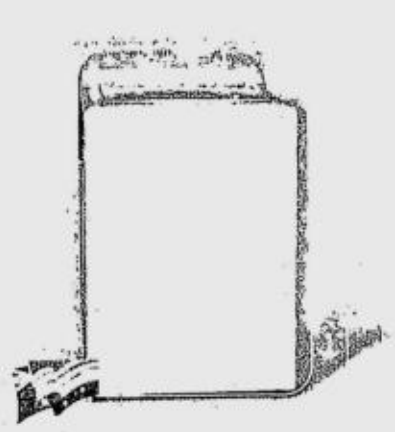
ZERO% IN
ON YOUR DREAM MACHINE

SRP ₱86,499.00
6 MONTHS ₱14,416.50
SAVE AS MUCH AS
₱9,601.56



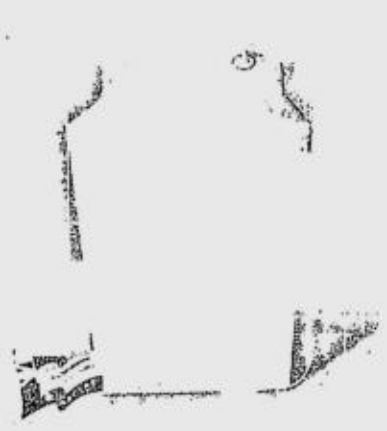
Maytag
Refrigerator
RSW2400EKM
[24 cu.ft. Side by Side]

SRP ₱24,694.00
6 MONTHS ₱4,115.67
SAVE AS MUCH AS
₱2,741.06



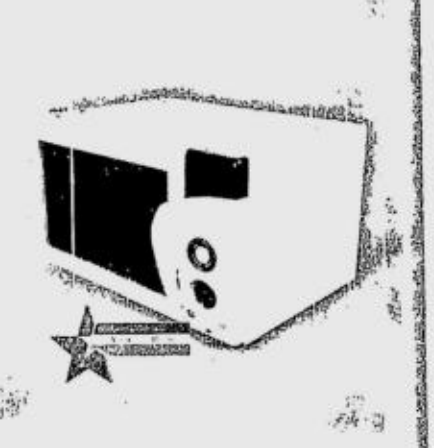
American Home
Washer
AW 1050ST
[10.5 Kg Stainless Tub]

SRP ₱25,994.00
6 MONTHS ₱4,332.34
SAVE AS MUCH AS
₱2,885.38



American Home
Washer
AW 1100ST
[10.5 Kg Stainless Tub]

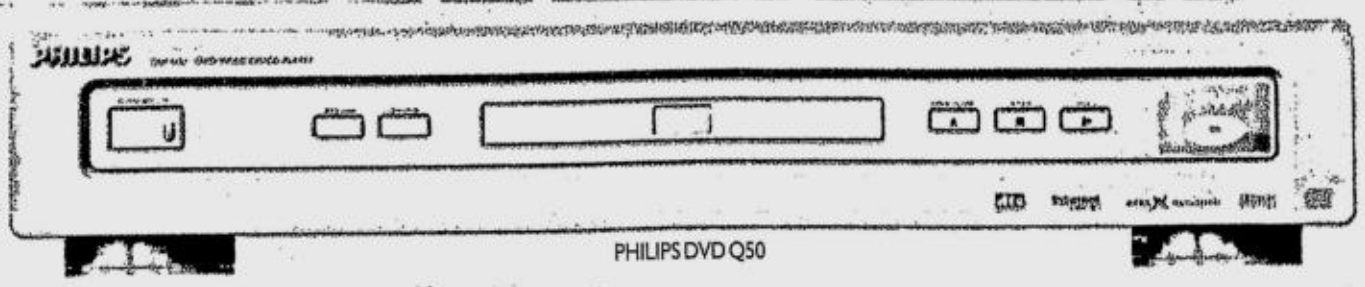
SRP ₱16,999.00
6 MONTHS ₱2,833.17
SAVE AS MUCH AS
₱1,886.92



American Home
Microwave Oven
AMW PERFECT 10
[0.03 cu.m. Microwave/Convection]
[0.9 cu.ft.]

You've always wanted durability and style. Now you can choose from our wide variety of high-quality appliances at **0% interest!** With our **6 months, Zero Percent Interest Promo**, pay on installment through your Citibank credit card and get 0% interest on selected American Home and Maytag models. Rush to the SM Appliance Installment Fiesta at SM Megatrade Hall, Megamall anytime from April 18 - May 5, 2002 and get your dream machine.

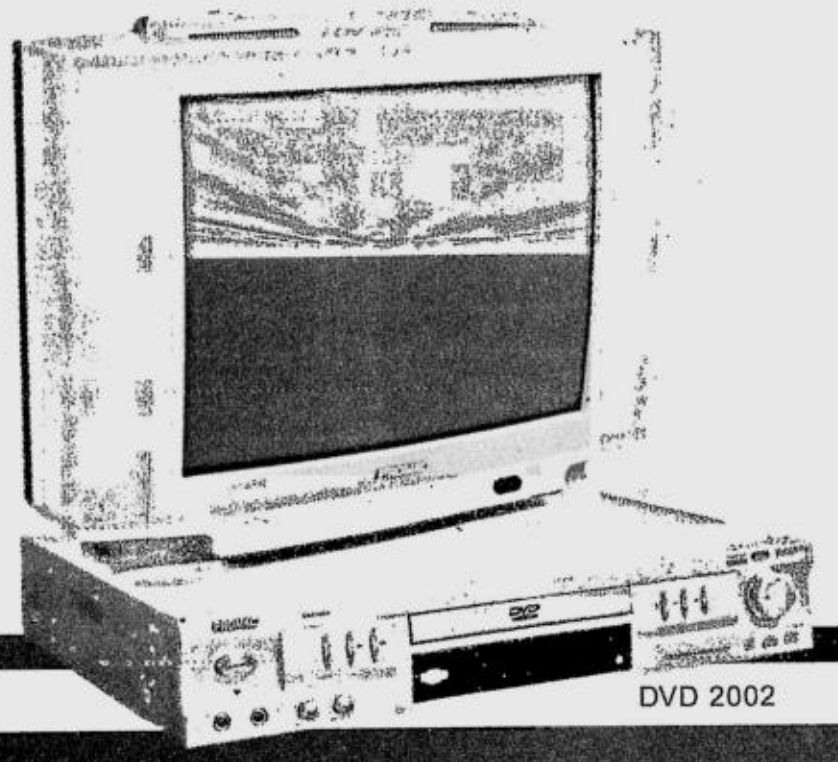
SM Appliance Center
Citibank Credit Card
For inquiries, contact us at: 374-4567 to 74 or www.americanhomeappliances.com
AMERICAN HOME Simply The Best
MAYTAG USA
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-146, Series of 2002



PHILIPS DVD Q50

Get the **digital experience,** only from the **PRO.**

Enjoy the high audio-video quality performance of the Promac TV, DVD & VCD Series. Guaranteed superior standards for your optimum satisfaction.



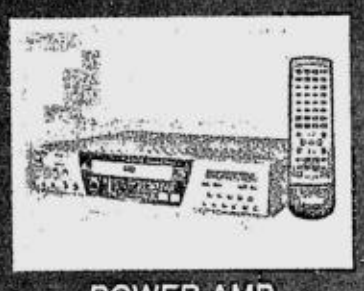
DVD 2002

PROMAC

Be a PRO all year round!

Also available:

VCD - 2530



POWER AMP

VCD - 262

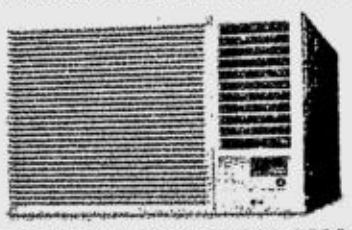
WATCH 'N PLAY

CINEMAC 20

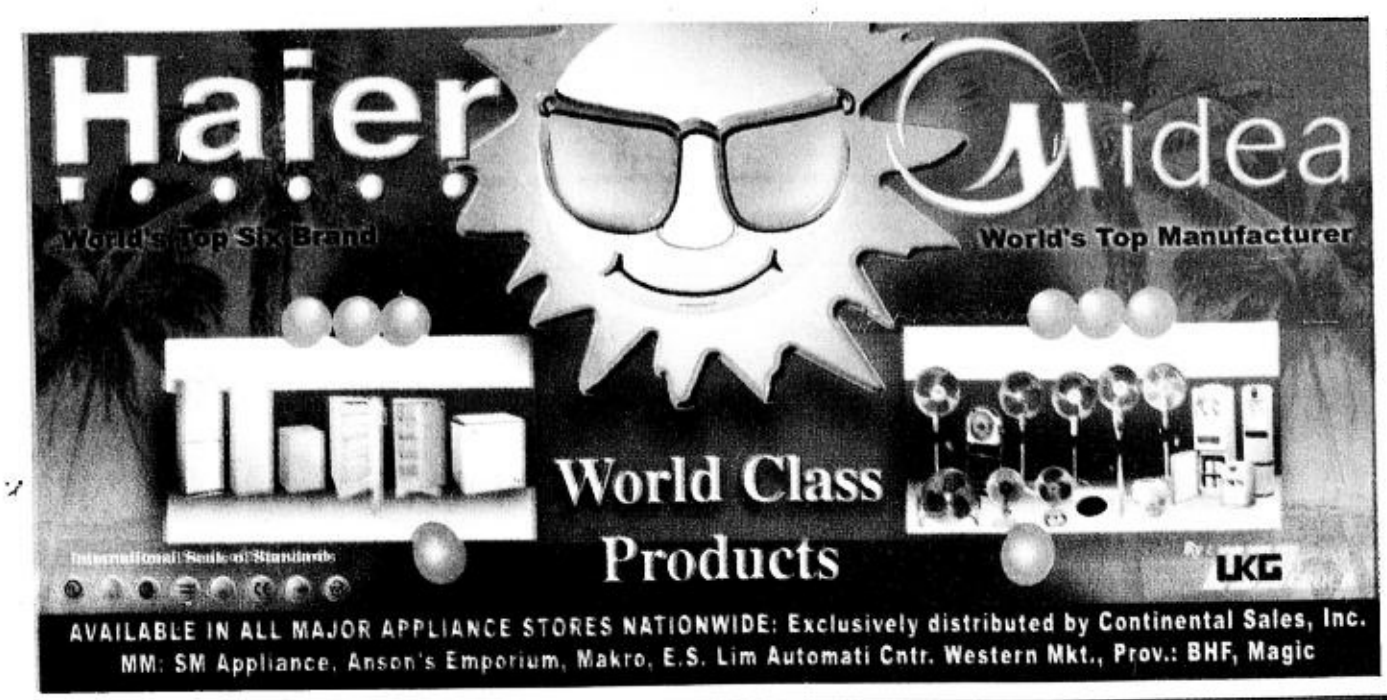
LG AIR-CON SPECIALIST WARNING: Buying A Wrong-Sized Air Conditioner Is Dangerous To Your Health And Finances.

LG
Life's Good!

Size does matter when it comes to choosing the right air conditioner. Buy an undersized one and you'll be sweating over high electric bills and a too-warm temperature. On the other hand, an oversized air-con can be downright bone-chilling in terms of atmosphere and energy consumption. Fortunately, the solution to choosing the right-sized air-con is as easy as asking an LG Air-con Specialist in your favorite appliance store. **Be wise. Choose the right size.**



LG Collins Electronics Manila No. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-4181 up to 85. Fax 640-0460. Customer Information Center: 640-2525



Philips DVD Q50 combines art and technology

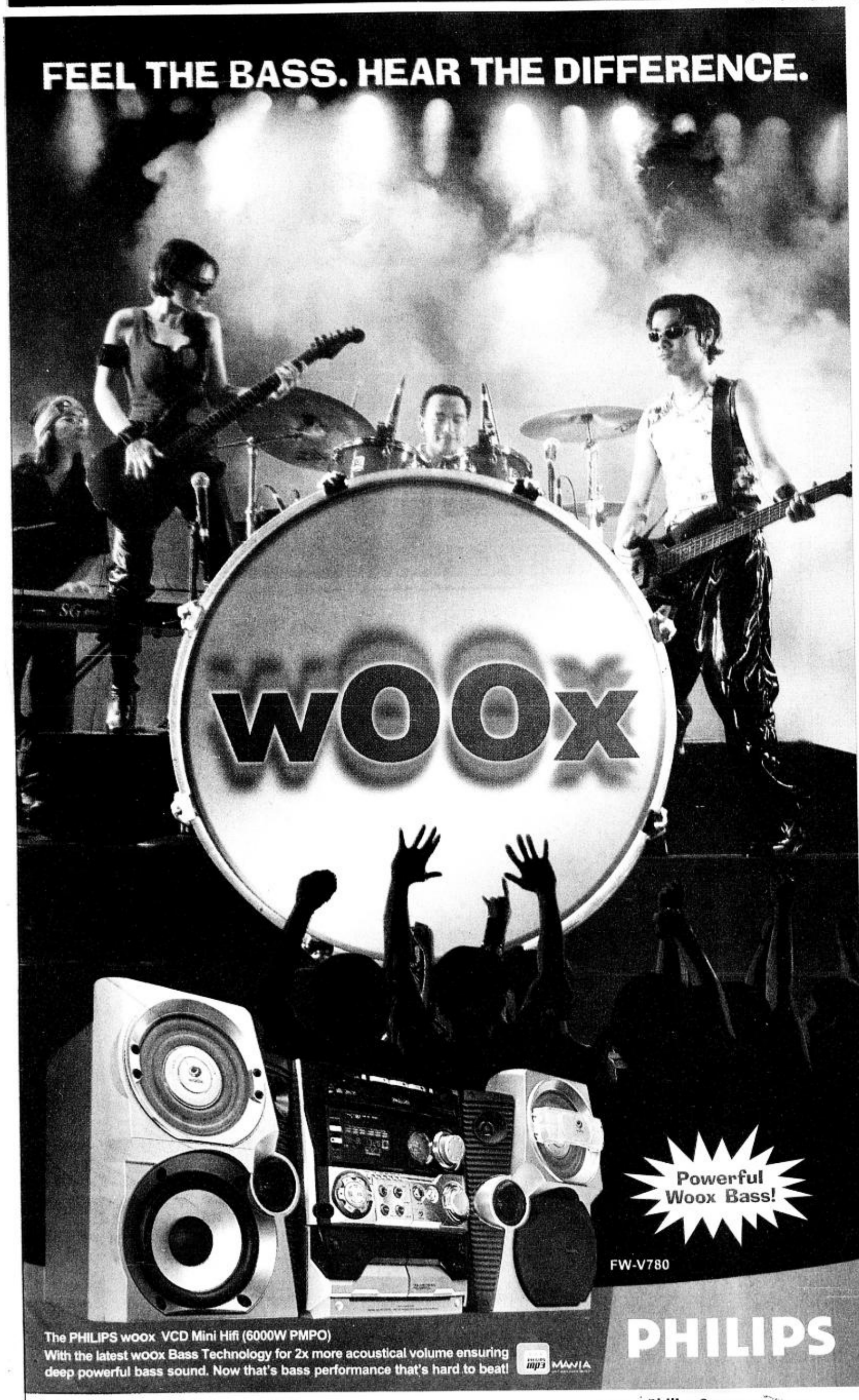
PHILIPS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS answers the challenge of providing a product that looks as good as it performs, with its new DVD Q50 player. The DVD Q50 is perfect for those who want to experience the best in home entertainment while giving their living space a touch of elegance, matching cutting-edge style with top-of-the-line technology.

Philips' DVD Q50 boasts of the Crystal Clear Pro technology, a unique Philips innovation, which utilizes the High Quality Progressive Scan that helps eliminate video combing; resulting with the sharpest details and flawless images. It also uses the Digital Crystal Clear function to preserve the finest details of the authentic picture for flawless image reproduction.

Video quality is matched by superb sound, with the DVD Q50's built-in Dolby Digital and DTS Decoder. Philips also merges DVD technology with MP3 technology so you can play MP3s and CDs from just one system.

All these great features are packed in a slim, sleek player that has an impressive design. The DVD Q50 has a polished real aluminum front panel, elegant turquoise panel and shiny chrome areas that reflect style and sophistication. The player's revolutionary small white fluorescent display also manages and indicates the functions discreetly, adding a nice, smooth finish to leave a lasting impression.

Contemporary design and high technology can blend beautifully together, as the Philips DVD Q50 clearly shows. With Philips continually innovating art and technology, more people can have the best in home entertainment and beautiful home accents, all from one package.



The secret...

From page H5

manufacturer's product literature. Decide which features are important to you. Ask questions about how the different models operate: Are they noisy? What safety features do they have? What about repair histories? How much water do they use? How energy efficient are they?

4. Estimate how much the appliance will cost to operate. The more energy an appliance uses, the more it will cost to run. Consult the EnergyGuide label to compare the energy use of different models. The difference on your monthly utility bill can be significant, especially when considered over the 10-to-20-year life of the appliance. You could save money over the long run by choosing a model that's more energy efficient, even if the purchase price is higher.

5. Ask about special energy efficiency offers. Ask your salesperson or local utility about cash rebates, low-interest loans or other incentive programs in your area for energy-efficient product purchases — and how you can qualify.

Tips to lower your monthly energy bill

Being an energy-smart consumer means getting the most from the energy you use. Here's how you can cut energy waste without sacrificing comfort or convenience.

- Move your refrigerator if it's near the stove, dishwasher or heat vents. Vacuum the coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency. Check the door gaskets for air leaks. Defrost the freezer when more than a quarter-inch of ice builds up.
- Scrape but don't pre-rinse dishes by hand if you have a dishwasher that automatically pre-rinses or has a rinse/hold cycle. Use the "energy saver" option found on many machines.
- Use pots that fit the size of your stove-top burners. Use lids on your pots and pans so you can cook at a lower burner setting.
- Match the water level and temperature settings on your clothes washer to the size of your load. Don't fill the whole tub for a few small items.
- Clean your clothes dryer filters after each use or as necessary.
- Ensure that the temperature on your water heater is set to 120 degrees. Some thermostats are preset at the factory to 140 degrees.

Source: US Federal Trade Commission for the Consumer (www.ftc.gov)

Texas think tank sees US forward base in RP

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Ople: Copa a club of job-seekers

By C. D. Balana

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday socked it to the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), saying it and similar groups should disband for having

OPLE/ A18

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website: www.inq7.net

Palace blundered on Erap docu—Joker

IF "INA ng Bayan" can be shown on television, why not "Ama ng Masa" as both are propaganda depending on who and how one looks at it, an administration senator yesterday said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Malacañang blundered when it decided to ban the showing on television of "Ama ng Bayan," a documentary that tells the stories of Edsa

PALACE/ A6

Copa to seek ceasefire

Manifesto to be issued next month

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE COUNCIL for Philippine Affairs will call for a "ceasefire" with Malacañang once the issue of a supposed plot by "Freedom Force" to overthrow the administration has been cleared, Copa secretary general Pastor Saycon said yesterday.

Emerging from an emergency meeting of the group's members in his Makati office, Saycon said the Copa could "easily call for a ceasefire, but (only) after the truth has been established." He said the group had proposed that each member request a rectification from the INQUIRER for the supposed bad publicity generated by its report last Tuesday on an alleged junta plot.

Saycon also said Freedom Force, a brainchild of columnist Teodoro Benigno, would release in May a draft of its manifesto to clarify once and for all its concept, nature and goals. The manifesto was initially scheduled for release in June.

"(Freedom Force) is not an organization," Saycon said. "It's a concept to provide us an inspiration. It (will be) the people that will embrace it."

The draft will be presented for consultation at various forums to enable advocates of Freedom Force to "craft (the manifesto) as an inspiring clarion call" primarily addressing the most pressing social issues in the country, according to Saycon.

He said the consultation would take at least a month and a half. A revised

COPA/ A18

LIKE a "deus ex machina," a CH-46 Sea Knight descends upon a cast of US Marines, part of a staged exercise for the RP-US Balikatan 02-2 at the Marine base in Ternate, Cavite. DENNIS SABANGAN

US military's top man is here

THE HIGHEST-RANKING officer in the world's most powerful military arrived in Manila yesterday, sending the strongest signal yet of "resurgent military relations" between the Philippines and the United States.

Gen. Richard Myers, the chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, will meet government officials today and visit US troops participating in the RP-US military exercise in Zamboanga City tomorrow. After the Philippines, he will proceed to South Korea and Japan in a quick swing to what observers described as the Top 3 US allies in Asia.

His visit marks the first time that a chairman of the Joint Chiefs has visited a Balikatan exercise, an annual training program started in 1981.

US/ A4

SIGN of the Second Coming? US chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers visits.

Don't gripe in public, Reyes warns generals

By Martin P. Marfil and Cynthia D. Balana

THE TOP BRASS will not condone public airing of complaints by generals in the active service, according to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"The active generals, if they have gripes, should course it through the chain of command and we will address them," Reyes told defense reporters the other night. "We will not tolerate any public airing of gripes from active officers, particularly generals."

But Reyes' announcement was followed yesterday by a warning from a group of retired military officers against President Macapagal-Arroyo's supposed plan to extend the term of duty of the next Armed Forces chief of staff.

Retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, chair and president of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo), acknowledged that "it is the prerogative of the President to select the next chief of staff."

However, Gidaya said, any term extension would not be welcome. "You make not only those who are qualified and even those who are waiting to be promoted unhappy," he said. "That is the position of (Agfo). We are just playing it safe. We don't want our Armed Forces to be (bothered) by this kind of decision."

Gidaya made the remark during a press briefing wherein he reiterated Agfo's support for the administration and disputed reports that a number of generals were rallying behind the so-called Freedom Force.

DON'T/ A18

ROSE LACSON HANCOCK PORTEUS: Glam personified.

ROGER MARGALLO/FILE PHOTO, 2001

Rose Porteous cleared of killing rich husband

PERTH, Australia—Australian iron ore mining magnate Lang Hancock, one of the country's wealthiest men, was not killed by his Philippine-born wife, a coroner ruled here yesterday.

Handing down his findings, Western Australian Coroner Alastair Hope said he had found no evidence in the inquest that Hancock's widow, the now remarried Rose Lacson-Porteous, willfully murdered her rich elderly husband.

"I do not accept that the death was a homicide," Hope said.

ROSE/ A18

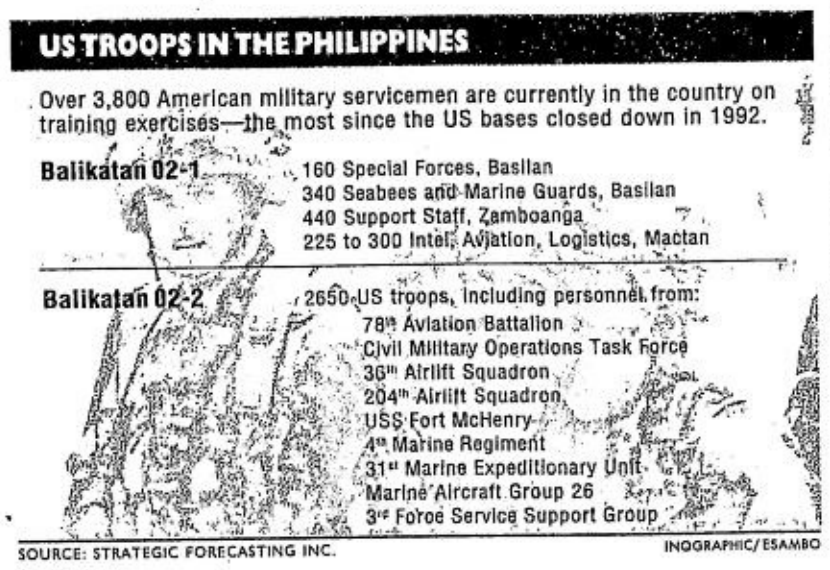
Texas think tank sees US forward base in RP

"WASHINGTON may be literally paving the way" for a forward military base in Basilan, a Texas-based think tank said yesterday. Strategic Forecasting Inc. or Stratfor said the reconstruction of roads and air strips in the island-province by US military engineers was a likely signal that the United States was setting up a regional "operations facility" for counter-terrorism.

"Ultimately, US operations in the southern Philippines are directed less at defeating the Abu Sayyaf and more at establishing a forward operation base in Southeast Asia—with an eye on Indonesia as a likely first target," a Stratfor briefing paper claimed yesterday.

The paper, posted on its website and available to some 35,000 subscribers worldwide, said Indonesia was "a very attractive location for (the) al-Qaida

TEXAS/ A4



Malacañang suspicious of FVR anew

By Carlito Pablo

THE QUESTION is being asked around Malacañang: Is former President Fidel V. Ramos involved in the alleged efforts by the Freedom Force to install a "collective leadership" in place of President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Suspicions about the Ramos intentions were raised over again after a close Ramos associate, Cesar Sarino, was identified as one of the Freedom Force proponents present in that now controversial April 15 meeting with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The meeting, which was monitored by the Palace, according to an INQUIRER source, has been confirmed by the parties involved. But Freedom Force has stoutly denied that replacing Ms Macapagal was discussed during the meeting.

A Palace official said: "What in

MALACAÑANG/ A18

Catholics worldwide hail Vatican summit

DUBLIN, Ireland—Catholics worldwide on Thursday welcomed Pope John Paul II's unprecedented summit with US cardinals as a good start to tackling child abuse within the Catholic Church, but court cases kept surfacing to remind the Vatican that this is a global scandal.

"The Catholic Church does not act unless the problem is already in great proportions," said the "running priest," Fr. Robert Reyes, parish priest of the Church of Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where another priest has been jailed on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl. "We don't realize the defect until it is too big to solve."

In Ireland, 70-year-old Morris Tobin, a retired member of the Christian Brothers teaching order, appeared in court Thursday to face 173 charges of molesting 25 schoolboys in the 1960s.

More than 30 Catholic priests and brothers in Ireland have been convicted of sexually abusing children in the past decade.

"You'd think based on recent headlines that the Church only has problems in America," said John Kelly, director of Irish Survivors of Child Abuse, which represents about 800 people abused in Church-run schools and orphanages. "The pope needs to take a long, hard look at what his Church has tried to cover up in Ireland, in Canada, in Australia, in his own Polish homeland—probably everywhere, if the truth ever comes out."

In many countries, Church officials and the Catholic faithful were weighing the US cardinals' plans to expel serial abusers from the priesthood, ver-

CATHOLICS/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE

GROUP QUESTIONS FREEDOM FOR ENRILE, MACEDA

Supporters protest Lumbao arrest

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

"FREE Ronald Lumbao! Free Ronald Lumbao!" chanted the flag-waving, banner-carrying protesters, numbering at least 60, throughout their hour-long rally outside Camp Crame in Quezon City late yesterday morning.

The members of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) were protesting the arrest of their secretary general when charges were dropped against more prominent persons who had been charged with rebellion like Lumbao.

"What makes Ka Ronald different from Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda who were allowed to post bail on rebellion charges and who remain free to this day?" asked PMAP spokesperson Arnold Obina, who addressed the crowd from atop a utility vehicle.

"Perhaps the only difference is that Ka Ronald is a poor man like us, who leads a hand-to-mouth existence and who struggles hard for our sake. That is the reality—injustice against the poor continues," Obina said.

After months in hiding, Lumbao was arrested before dawn Thursday by police intelligence agents in an apartment owned by his common-law wife in Quezon City.

He and several political allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada, including Enrile and Maceda, had been tagged as the instigators of last year's Labor Day attack on Malacañang by Estrada loyalists.

But in the end only Lumbao was charged with rebellion before the Manila regional trial court.

Lumbao's wife Liza, who arrived toward the end of the PMAP rally, echoed Obina.

"How come the rich people are allowed to go scot-free while the poor like us are treated differently?" she said. "The case against Ronald should be dropped—it is not legal but political in nature."

Liza was allowed to visit her husband for a second day at the Intelligence Group headquarters, where he has been held since his capture. She brought him food, clothes and newspapers.

Apparently, Lumbao's arrest has not dampened the spirits of PMAP members.

On the contrary, "It has further emboldened us to continue our struggle," said Obina. "His message to us was that we should draw inspiration from his capture and push through with our May 1 protest actions."

Thousands of PMAP members are planning to march to Malacañang on May 1 to mark the first anniversary of the bloody assault that was driven back by police and soldiers after a fierce daylong street battle.

By contrast, yesterday's protest was peaceful and after the hour-long program highlighted by the speeches of PMAP leaders, the participants dispersed around noon.

Truncheon-wielding policemen were deployed at the camp gate and two firetrucks were on standby to quell any violence.

The Department of Justice yesterday ordered a reinvestigation of the rebellion charges against Lumbao following the ruling issued by Manila RTC Judge Teresa P. Soriaso on March 22.

Lumbao was in hiding at the time, thus the DOJ could not conduct the reinvestigation.

"Now that Lumbao has been arrested, we could begin it," said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Lumbao will still not be allowed to post bail during the reinvestigation, however, also on orders of Judge Soriaso, who ruled that "the action for the admission of bail is deferred pending the termination of the reinvestigation."

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velazco, who is handling the rebellion case against Lumbao, said the reinvestigation will start next week and should be finished in 15 days.

During a press conference yesterday, Perez also defended the government's decision to go after Lumbao and not the other alleged leaders of the so-called Edsa III and the May 1 siege on Malacañang.

He said Enrile was allowed to post bail while the case against Maceda was dismissed. ***With Rocky Nazareno in Manila and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Erap's tax returns face court scrutiny

FORMER President Joseph Estrada's tax records for the last 15 years will be up for scrutiny when the Sandiganbayan resumes hearing his plunder case on Monday.

State prosecutors yesterday asked the antigraft court to subpoena Kathryn Victoriano, chief of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's administration division, to testify on the deposed president's income tax returns from 1987 to 2001.

Victoriano was asked to bring along Estrada's tax returns during the period he was a senator, vice president and president.

The prosecution is expected to use Victoriano's testimony to compare Estrada's reported income with the P4.1 billion he allegedly accumulated while in office and which became the basis for the plunder charge. ***Volt Contreras***

N. Korean defector to fly to RP

A NORTH Korean refugee who scaled the wall of the German Embassy in Beijing, China and claimed asylum will be allowed to leave for South Korea via the Philippines, officials said Friday.

The swiftly brokered deal ends a potential diplomatic headache for China just hours after the man climbed into the embassy compound Thursday and pronounced himself, according to an embassy spokesperson, "unwilling to leave."

Philippine foreign ministry spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said that as "a humanitarian gesture," the man, whom the ministry identified as 23-year-old Hae Jon, would be allowed to transit through Manila.

This would be done on condition the North Korean left the Philippines on the first available flight, Lecaros said, adding he would most likely not even leave the airport. ***Christine Herrera, AFP***

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GMA: Segregation, not incineration

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she would rather spend the money on an information drive on garbage segregation than on the incinerator project proposed by Jancom Environment Corp. to solve the garbage problem.

Speaking before the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, Ms Macapagal reiterated that she would not approve the $350-million contract between the government and Jancom.

"*Maraming sabit ito* (It has many flaws)," she said.

"Rather than pay for a contract that's flawed, let us use the money for a massive information campaign on garbage segregation," she said.

"The incinerator project and segregation are both long-term solutions. (But) let's go for segregation since we have interim garbage disposal solutions anyway," Ms Macapagal said.

The Supreme Court on April 16 upheld the contract the government had entered into with Jancom in 1997. But it said the President had to sign the contract for it to take effect.

Interim systems

Ms Macapagal has repeatedly declared she would not sign the "flawed contract."

She said there was no urgency to build an incinerator since Metro Manila cities have their "interim" garbage disposal systems.

She cited the landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal and the "eco-centers" at Smokey Mountain in Manila as examples.

She said she would leave it to the Metro Manila Development Authority to decide whether to renegotiate the Jancom contract or junk it.

The Jancom contract, which was originally signed by three officials in the Ramos administration, was allegedly presented to ex-President Joseph Estrada to sign for a 20-percent commission.

Estrada did not sign the contract and was scheduled to testify on what he knew about the deal last Wednesday before the House committee on ecology, but he did not show up.

Swollen gums

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said he learned the House leadership had stopped the ousted leader from testifying.

Two congressmen said House leaders did not want Estrada to use the chamber to attack the Supreme Court anew since this could create a constitutional crisis.

But Estrada told the INQUIRER he failed to show up because his gums were swollen.

Dilangalen, however, moved that Estrada be invited anew to the next hearing.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos is also expected to testify at the same inquiry, according to committee chair Rep. Augusto Baculio of Misamis Oriental.

Estrada would be asked to testify on the alleged 20-percent commission offered by Jancom for him to sign the deal.

No ECC

Estrada's flagship projects secretary Robert Aventajado testified last week he had recommended to Estrada the scrapping of the Jancom deal because the company had failed to secure an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) and had increased its tipping fee.

Aventajado denied knowing about the 20-percent commission offered by Jancom. Jancom "never went beyond me," he said.

Acosta had sought the House inquiry into the Jancom deal on the ground it violated the Clean Air Act's prohibition against the use of incinerators and due to alleged irregularities in the contract.

Acosta said proper bidding procedures were not followed and the 25-year contract was overpriced by P390 billion.

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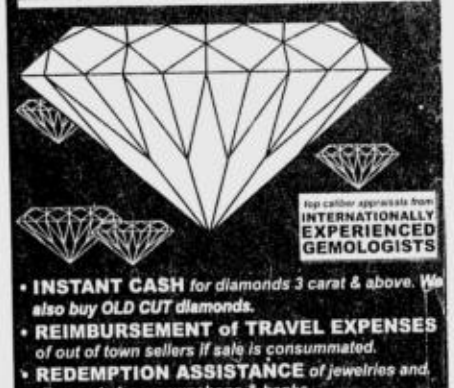
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The interview results shall determine eligibility of the participants and will form part of the final grade. A Written Evaluative Exercise (Comprehensive Examination) is part of the course.

Interested parties may make their reservations at PHILJA through Telefax Nos. 523-9075; 525-8939 addressed to Judge Priscila S. Agana, Executive Secretary; or at Telephone No. 522-3249, not later than May 3, 2002. Registration Forms and Personal Data Sheet can be downloaded from the PHILJA link at www.supremecourt.gov.ph.

The Academic Officials will be in Cebu City on May 9-10, 2002 to conduct the preliminary interview and screening for qualified applicants for the program, on which occasion, the required payment must also be made.

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US military's top man is here

From page A1

"He is also going down south for a troop visit and to get feedback on US training assistance," Golez said.

"This is part of the continuing good relations or resurgent military relations of the United States with the Philippines," said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Myers visit started off on the wrong note, when a Philippine Air Force attack helicopter taking part in the Luzon phase of the Balikatan exercise crashed last night at the edge of the runway of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga. The two pilots escaped with slight injuries.

Golez told reporters he would meet Myers today to discuss the progress of the Balikatan training exercises.

Myers had said this week that some of the United States' 80 allies in the war on terror needed technological boosts, to make it easier to communicate and participate in US plans and actions and help domestic militaries and law enforcement agencies respond to and perhaps fight a signature tactic of terrorists: the element of surprise.

Over 3,800 US troops are currently in the Philippines, the most since the closure of the US bases in 1992. Faced with several insurgencies, the Philippines has been a staunch supporter of the US-led campaign against terrorism and has been rewarded with equipment and training for its underfunded military.

Chopper crash

The MG520—hailed as the PAF's frontliner in the government's counter-insurgency campaign crashed at about 6:35 p.m. last night, on the edge of the runway's south ramp, some 200 meters away from the PAF's Air Defense Center.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the 600th Air Base Wing, the PAF's host unit at Clark, said the distressed aircraft came from the Philippine Army's Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija where it had participated in close air support training of Filipino and US marines yesterday.

The aircraft was one of four attack helicopters used in the training, he said. It did not explode after the crash. The front was wrecked, the tail severed upon impact, he added.

The pilots—First Lt. Raymond Asido and First Lt. Shiela Grace Vicente—were trapped inside the plane. A six-man rescue team from the US Marine Corps and the PAF used power tools to extricate the two. Asido and Vicente belong to the 15th Fighter Wing based at the Atienza Air Base in Sangley, Cavite.

Ballesteros said the two suffered bruises and were rushed to the Air Force City hospital, also in Clark, to be monitored for signs of internal hemorrhage.

Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy commander of the 600th Air Base Wing and the PAF's project manager for the purchase of MG520s, said 24 such choppers were bought in 1990.

Costing $1 million each at that time, these are manufactured by the US-based McDonnel Douglas. "(These are) very reliable helicopters," Hotchkiss told the INQUIRER.

A "Friendship Jump" was also conducted yesterday morning, using a C-130 cargo aircraft. A building fire rescue operation exercise was also held.

R&R

Philippine Army Lt. Col. Ceserino Tannagan Jr., chief of the Balikatan 02-2 information bureau, told reporters US military officials were very strict in overseeing the conduct of their men participating in the exercises.

About 1,200 American soldiers in Clark are not allowed to go beyond Angeles City during their free time at night. They have to get back inside the former US military base by 2 a.m. or face disciplinary action.

But Tannagan said US soldiers can go out for drinks and shopping during their free time, which he said is usually during nighttime when there are no Balikatan-related activities.

He said US soldiers are not permitted to go beyond the boundaries of Angeles City except during official missions that include trips to and from the marine base in Ternate, Cavite, and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

He said a security unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines guards the US soldiers when they spend their free time outside the base, while the 500th Air Base Wing provides them security inside.

First Lt. Neil Peterson of the Balikatan 02-2 information bureau told the INQUIRER that US troops here would be allowed to go outside the base "if opportunity allows it." ***With reports from Reuters, AP, and Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Air Force captain first PAF pilot to fly FA-18

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Capt. Armando Ardenazo yesterday became the first Philippine Air Force pilot to fly the FA-18, the state-of-the-art fighter jet better known as the Hornet. He sat on the backseat, behind instructor Capt. Danny Johnson of the Marine Corps, during the one-hour training flight.

"The flight was great!" Ardenazo said after disembarking. Johnson was impressed by Ardenazo's performance. "Great, great flying with Sickle," Johnson said. Sickle is Ardenazo's nickname, and the training flight was part of the Luzon phase of the Balikatan military exercise.

"(He's) by all means a great student, (a) very experienced aviator," Johnson said of his 34-year-old co-pilot. Ardenazo finished at the top of his class (Batch '91) at the PAF Flying School in Lipa City. He leads the PAF's Blue Diamond precision flying team.

Johnson added: "He was familiar with the surrounding territory and terrain. He was very helpful in the navigation."

He said the "personal touch" and the experience that Ardenazo contributed proved "much more useful than any computers that you can put inside the jet."

Ardenazo said the "very rare" flight taught him much. In his 12-year career, he has flown F-5 fighter jets and S-211 training aircraft.

"There's no big difference (between the F-5s and FA-18s)," he noted. "We also fly at high speed and even at the speed of sound."

After Ardenazo's pioneer flight, US Marine pilots gave him the traditional "wet down" rite for first-time flyers. At the flight line, they doused him with water, to loud applause and cheers.

Seven other PAF pilots are to fly the Hornets today. Capt. Carlos Evangelista of the PAF's 5th Fighter Wing said he was eagerly anticipating the flight. "I am excited," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Texas think tank sees US forward base in RP

From page A1

(terrorist network) to regroup."

"That is why it is important for the United States to set up an operations facility outside Indonesia but close enough for action," Stratfor concluded. The think tank describes itself on its website as "one of the world's leading private providers of global intelligence."

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told the INQUIRER yesterday that Stratfor had gotten it wrong. "Whoever wrote that report is not very familiar with Basilan's geography. Basilan is not an ideal forward base," Golez said.

He also said he told US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone about the report. "He was very shocked and (then) thought it very funny. He used a term that is not very polite," Golez added.

Besides, he said, the Americans cannot set up a forward base with just $4 million, the amount they will spend on infrastructure projects in Basilan under the second phase of the Balikatan 02-1 training exercise.

Golez said the Macapagal administration would not permit any plans to set up such a base to go forward. "Our government of course will not allow it because it's not allowed by the Constitution," he said.

He said the United States does not need a permanent facility in the country since it can deploy quickly in the region from its current military bases. The Americans are also aware of the "political sensitivities" of Filipinos when it comes to the issue of permanent US military facilities, he added.

Temporary cover

But in its report entitled "US Exercises May Lead To Regional Base," Stratfor noted that the hostage crisis in Basilan could provide a temporary cover for dealing with such sensitivities.

"The Abu Sayyaf problem offers a rhetorical cover for US activity in the Philippines, avoiding or at least postponing the politically volatile issue of a more permanent US base in its former colony," the think tank noted. The Abu Sayyaf bandit group continues to hold American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap captive.

"Although the US government is characterizing the development work as an effort to reduce poverty in the region and thus eliminate one of the root causes of terrorism, Washington may be literally paving the way for a forward logistics and operations base to conduct regional counter-terrorism strikes," the report added.

Stratfor was founded by Dr. George Friedman and is currently headed by Don R. Kuykendall, the company's president and chief executive officer. It is based in Austin, Texas.

Conducive environment

"Although the political debate in Manila has yet to be quieted, the United States is well on its way to creating a conducive environment in Basilan for a forward operations base," the Stratfor report read. "The Seabees are repairing the main road around the island, upgrading other roads and improving two airstrips and pier facilities—all changes that will make the island much more useful for US troops to operate from."

The Seabees are military engineers belonging to the US Naval Construction Task Group. The popular nickname comes from the abbreviation of Construction Battalion, the previous name of such units.

Reports that the United States is employing a forward deployment strategy are not new. The construction in the 1990s of the Gen. Santos City international airport with US aid prompted much speculation about US geo-political strategy.

"US military planners have looked at the city of General Santos in southern Mindanao as an ideal location for facilities, with both sea and land access," Stratfor noted. "(But it was the) presence of Abu Sayyaf (that) provided the (United States the) perfect reason to return (to the Philippines after the closure of the US bases) with minimal political backlash, and that directed Washington to Basilan as an alternative to General Santos."

Reasons for ideal locale

The intelligence brief enumerated three reasons why military planners were likely considering Basilan as the ideal location for a forward base.

"In many respects, Basilan has several benefits over General Santos, most notably its small size. An opposing force would find it difficult to mass for an attack on the facilities, so the defending US and Philippine troop numbers could be smaller. Furthermore, General Santos has a very busy port, offering cover to potential terrorists or other aggressors. And Basilan's built-in insurgency provides a convenient political cover for the establishment of a more permanent US presence on the island."

It also noted that Basilan's location is "strategic if the United States wants to establish a forward logistics and operations base in Southeast Asia. Despite the political bickering in Manila, the Philippines is a focal point for US operations in the region due to Washington's close relationship with the government and the country's proximity to Malaysia and, more importantly, Indonesia." ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

2 Syrians arrested

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Cynthia D. Balana

IMMIGRATION agents arrested late Thursday two of the Syrians accused of assaulting an ABS-CBN news team in Pampanga early this week.

Mohamma Issam El-Debs, reportedly Syria's honorary consul, was arrested at the ABS-CBN Compound on Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City.

He has reportedly made an offer for a compromise settlement with the TV network.

Authorities caught up with his friend, Fawaz Habar Kozma, at the Kokoma Club on Fields Avenue in Angeles City late Thursday.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo ordered the arrest of the four after ABS-CBN reporter Jing Castañeda filed charges of serious physical injuries and malicious mischief against them.

The Syrians were in a girlie bar in Clark on Tuesday night when the ABS-CBN crew walked in and started taking footage for a documentary.

The Syrians demanded that the cameraman hand over the tape and camera and allegedly attacked the crew when they were refused.

Domingo agreed to release Issam, who does not enjoy diplomatic immunity being only an honorary consul, reportedly upon the request of ABS-CBN executive Danilo Bernardo.

Issam insisted that he was not involved in the brawl but apologized to the broadcast network for his friends whom he claimed had been drunk when they started the fight.

He promised to bring in the two other suspects, Galem Madame and Mohd Jouma.

Sen. Blas Ople, who chairs of the Senate foreign relations committee, said the Syrians should be punished.

"Their destructive and unprovoked behavior against members of the media should not be tolerated—not on our native soil," Ople told a press conference.

He said the immigration bureau has sufficient powers to determine whether the Syrian nationals should be thrown out of the country or not.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs can immediately declare Issam *persona non grata* (an unwanted alien).

"Let us not be wimps in our own country," said Ople. "If these foreigners violated the law and abused innocent civilians, then they must be deported."

Ople said the BID and DFA should protect the dignity of all Filipinos by upholding the law against abusive foreigners.

Sen. Noli de Castro, a former ABS-CBN newscaster, lauded Domingo for ordering the immediate arrest of the foreigners.

He advised the TV crew not to settle for an apology to teach the Syrians a lesson.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 27, 2002
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:44-52
Gospel: Jn 14:7-14

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you know me, you will know the Father also; indeed you know him and you have seen him."

Philip asked him,"Lord, show us the Father and that is enough." Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father; how can you say: 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do; and he will even do greater than these, for I am going to the Father. Everything you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.And everything you ask in calling upon my Name, I will do."

Commentary

See Jesus, see the Father. It's a paradox: God is beyond anything we can imagine, yet is revealed in Jesus. See a new born baby, helpless and dependent, bearing promise and hope: you have seen God. See a man praying for his executioners: you have seen God. Contemplate Jesus in any scene of the gospel: you are beholding the human face of God. God has nothing more to show us. Is it enough? Could God have done more? It's not that God needs to do more, but that we need to stop, look and listen. That's prayer. "Believe in me—you'll do the same works as I do, and even greater." Jesus continues to be the way, truth and life all over the world in every generation, through those who believe and live in him, sharing life, food, friendship, education, hope, healing, reconciliation, the "greater things" he promised.

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Sulu deaths probed; kidnap grave found

ZAMBOANGA CITY--The military's Southern Command said it has started a probe into the death of two civilians and the wounding of nine others in Parang, Sulu, on April 24.

The Karapatan human rights group has claimed that the civilians were killed when a Navy contingent shelled a residential area in barangay Siyunogan.

Karapatan secretary general Marie Enriquez said the incident was part of the military's harassment of non-combatants in Sulu.

Maj. Rudy Belen, the Southcom deputy chief for operations, said that based on reports from the military commanders in Sulu, there had been encounters between government troops and Abu Sayyaf bandits on the day the civilians were killed.

He said the initial fighting began in Indanan town.

"Two of our soldiers were also wounded, but our troops managed to retaliate when the maneuvering and blocking forces (of) the 6th Infantry Battalion encountered the same group near Siyunogan Barangay in Parang," Belen said.

He said Col. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the 104th Army Infantry Brigade, will head the investigation to determine the "cause of this incident."

A fact-finding mission sent by militant organizations, meanwhile, said it had uncovered numerous cases of human rights violations in Sulu.

The group talked to residents of Patikul, Indanan, Parang, Talipao and Panamao towns over a period of five days. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery exists when the following facts are proved: (1) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (2) the deliberate and conscious adoption of the means of execution. Where treachery is alleged, the manner of attack must be proved. Without any particulars on the manner in which the aggression commenced or how the act which resulted in the victim's death unfolded, treachery cannot be appreciated. Circumstances qualifying criminal responsibility cannot rest on mere conjectures, no matter how reasonable or probable, but must be based on facts of unquestionable existence. In the instant case, there is a dearth of evidence with respect to the manner by which the accused stabbed the victim to death. Contrary to the prosecution's position, treachery cannot be presumed from the mere fact that the victim was found dead lying on hid bed and must therefore have been sleeping while he was attacked. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, People v. Cantonjos, G. R. No. 136748, November 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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US cardinals fly home

VATICAN CITY—American cardinals, their authority battered by child sex scandals, flew home on Thursday after crisis talks at the Vatican to try to convince US Roman Catholics to trust them with their children.

But their proposals to deal with pedophilia among the clergy failed to include a zero-tolerance policy for all sex offenders, firing disbelief and outrage among former victims of abuse by Catholic churchmen.

The cardinals, ending three days of meetings on Wednesday, came up with proposals for a two-track process for dismissing pedophile priests depending on whether they are repeat offenders.

"As far as I'm concerned, sexual abuse is a crime whether it's carried out on a serial basis or a singular one," John Kelly, founder of the Ireland-based Survivors of Child Abuse group, told Reuters.

"I don't see anything of substance from the church apart from another coded message full of smokescreens and mirrors," added Kelly, who said he was abused in a reformatory school in Ireland in the 1960s.

A worried and saddened Pope John Paul II, who summoned the cardinals to the Vatican to address the string of scandals, told them on Tuesday he would no longer tolerate pedophile priests.

"We realize this is going to be tough but we are determined to do it," one of the participants, Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore, told Reuters in a telephone interview before leaving.

"We feel strengthened by our meetings with the Pope and the encouragement he has given us," he said. ***Reuters***

Catholics hail Vatican summit

From page A1

sus the often vaguer policies on sexual abuse being adopted by their own national hierarchies. Some suggested the Church's response in America, as elsewhere, looked like too little too late.

The Vatican has not offered a blanket policy for Catholics worldwide on whether they should report alleged abuse to Church officials or civil authorities, leaving the advice to local bishops.

In Puerto Rico, Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez Nieves said anyone who had been sexually abused by Church officials should go directly to the police. But he refused to comment on at least six cases in Puerto Rican dioceses under the jurisdiction of other bishops, nor on a case he announced last week in his own parish.

"It's better that complainants go straight to civil authorities because it creates an impression of impartiality in the Church," Nieves said.

Unprecedented nature

Newspaper editorials worldwide remarked on the unprecedented nature of the Vatican summit. Many expressed hope that the Church would build momentum toward wider reforms.

"This was a landmark occasion, which . . . has broken through the atmosphere of silence and denial hitherto marking the Vatican's approach to this issue," declared the Irish Times, the paper of record in this predominantly Catholic nation.

"Dirty linen washed in public," read a headline in the La Stampa newspaper in Rome.

The rival Corriere della Sera newspaper credited the US media's "daily hammering" for forcing the Pope and his visitors to behave with uncharacteristic openness. "Something new is happening at the Vatican, facing a scandalous reality head on," it said.

In Britain, an officially Protestant nation where Catholics form a significant minority, the conservative Daily Telegraph newspaper warned that some of the Church's sternest critics had an anti-Catholic agenda.

"A minority wishes to destroy the Church and will use pedophilia as a handy weapon to do so," said the Telegraph, Britain's top-circulation broadsheet. It said calls for the Church to soften its policy of priestly celibacy represented a "gross fallacy."

"A man does not become a pedophile for want of a wife," the paper said. "It is common ground among psychologists that a typical offender against children is not a celibate clergyman but a married man."

In Austria, too, Church officials dismissed any connection between the policy of mandatory celibacy and the reality of deviant sexual behavior among a minority of priests.

"It must be mentioned that many cases of child abuse occur in families. There, the celibacy duty plays no role at all," said Bishop Egon Kapellari of the diocese of Styria in southern Austria. ***AP***

Palace . . .

From page A1

II and III from the perspective of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Arroyo noted that the Macapagal administration was testing the waters and flexing its muscle on how far it could go on infringing freedom of expression.

"This cannot be allowed. Pornography, or right to privacy, is not even involved here," he said. "It is an axiom of the law that 'nothing adds more to men's hatred of the government than its refusal to make them talk' and that 'with effervescing opinions, the quickest way to let them (fall) flat is to expose them to air'," he added.

In the film, Estrada claims that he was ousted as a result of a conspiracy among big business, media and the Catholic Church.

Arroyo said the banning of the film was a blackeye to the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That Erap twisted and falsified the truth in the film is obvious. But falsehood in a film alone is not a reason to ban its showing," the senator said.

Arroyo said "Ina ng Bayan," a government commercial featuring Ms Macapagal appealing to the poor to support her amid reports of a plot to oust her, was extensively shown on TV.

"From Estrada's angle, that too was propaganda and therefore false. But the government even subsidized its showing," the senator said.

The airing of the Estrada documentary was stopped Thursday night upon the request of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), two regulatory agencies under the Office of the President.

The VRB and MTRCB asked ABC 5 and the Iglesia ni Cristo-controlled Net 25 to hold in abeyance the showing of the one-hour film.

A Cabinet official and a relative of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo reportedly asked the management of Net 25 to defer the showing of the film until after May 1.

Malacañang apparently fears that the showing of the film on TV may incite supporters of Estrada, who are preparing to observe the first anniversary of the bloody siege of Malacañang, to take violent actions.

Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez said Ms Macapagal had no hand in stopping the airing of the film.

Sanchez claimed that "the position of the President is that it (the film's exhibition) should not be stopped" and that "there's no plan to actually stop it."

But he defended the actions of the VRB and MTRCB, saying that the two agencies have "the right to undertake measures if they believe that the showing of a movie or a film on television will not help" the country.

Sanchez neither denied nor confirmed that a Cabinet member had asked Net 25 to postpone the airing of "Ama ng Masa."

Apparently referring to the Malacañang official's request, Sanchez said the action was justifiable because "in these times, there are too many voices, too much noise."

"Maybe we should try to reduce these noises in the streets," he said on dzRH.

In a letter to the MTRCB on April 24, the VRB said R&R Productions, the distributor of the film, "has not registered with the VRB and has not been issued a special commercial permit."

The VRB said these requirements were needed before R&R Productions, whose owner was identified as Darwin Malapote, could be allowed "to publicly exhibit the said film."

The MTRCB then wrote Net 25 and ABC 5 to hold in abeyance the showing of the film . . . until the producer shall have registered with and (shall have been) issued a license by the VRB."

Sanchez described the MTRCB's action as "judgment call."

ABC 5

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Terra J. Daffon, ABC 5 senior vice president for corporate affairs, yesterday said the TV station did not schedule the airing of "Ama Ng Masa" on April 25.

He also said that ABC 5 did not submit a copy of the film to the MTRCB and the VRB for review, as it was not in possession of one.

Daffon said the TV station was therefore surprised to receive two faxed letters on April 24. One was a copy of the letter of the VRB to the MTRCB informing the latter that R&R Productions had not registered with the VRB and had not been issued a special commercial permit to publicly exhibit the film.

Another was from the chair of the MTRCB requesting ABC 5 to hold in abeyance the showing of the film until the producer shall have been issued a license by the VRB.

After conducting an inquiry, ABC 5 learned that R&R Productions filed on April 10 an application with the MTRCB for the classification and review of the film, according to Daffon.

The application, signed by one Naty Cheng, cited Channel 5 and Net 25 as the television stations that would air the documentary.

Daffon said the name of ABC 5 was used so that a clearance could be obtained from the MTRCB as no permit could be granted unless an applicant specified the station willing to air a certain film.

"We surmise that this was how the erroneous information arose that ABC 5 was scheduled to air the documentary," he said.

He said there was no truth to the statement printed in the INQUIRER that ABC 5 "was constrained to heed the advice of government as the latter could pull out from the network a show sponsored by the government-controlled Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office."

"This is pure speculation and fabrication as the government has no interference with ABC5 on this matter, nor does ABC 5 brook censorship," Daffon said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

2

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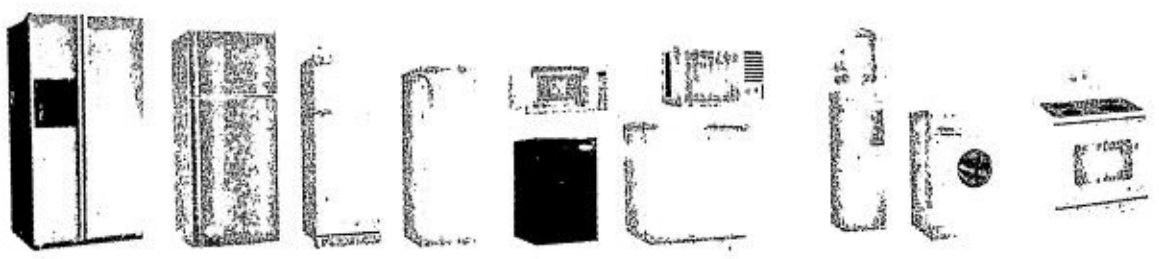

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Solid vote for the courts

EDITORIAL

THE SOCIAL Weather Stations' first-quarter survey showing that two-thirds of the people think the Sandiganbayan has been acting fairly in the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada is a resounding manifestation of public confidence in the judicial system. The finding is also a stinging rebuff to Estrada and his lawyers who have been doing all they can to undermine the judicial system.

The survey found that 66 percent thought the Sandiganbayan has been acting fairly or in a neutral manner in handling Estrada's plunder case, more than twice the 27 percent who thought it was anti-Erap.

The result came after a wave of actions taken by Estrada and his lawyers to denigrate the anti-graft court, as well as the entire judicial system. The actions include Estrada's dismissal of his lawyers, alleging that defense was futile because the court had rigged the trial to ensure conviction; a barrage of attacks on the impartiality and integrity of the Supreme Court after a series of decisions dismissing his petitions seeking either to delay the trial or to throw out the cases; and a systematic effort to delay the cases.

The result confirmed previous SWS surveys which showed 66 percent of the respondents believing that the Sandiganbayan was neutral in September 2001, and 64 percent in November 2001. What is equally significant is the finding that a large majority across all the regions and social classes thought the Sandiganbayan was fair. The perception of fairness was higher among the poorer classes—67 percent in D class, and 64 percent in E class—than in the ABC classes (56 percent).

This indicates that the court enjoys confidence even among the poor, whom Estrada claims to be his natural constituency. Estrada insults the intelligence of the poor when he says that his supporters in the D-E classes did not have much understanding of the intricacies of the trial. He indulges in wishful thinking when he says that the result would have been completely different if the complexities of the trial had been explained to them.

The latest SWS survey should be a message to Estrada that his antics to discredit the courts and some Supreme Court justices have not eroded one whit public confidence in the courts, as far as his trial is concerned. It should also spur the Sandiganbayan to go ahead with the trial and end it expeditiously after it has appointed a new set of defense lawyers to replace those Estrada had dismissed.

Devastating to Estrada's tactic of trying to destroy confidence in the judicial system and in the rule of law is the finding that Estrada's dismissal of his lawyers and his refusal to replace them with a new set of private lawyers was seen by a 45 percent plurality as just a delaying tactic. This is more than half the number (19 percent) of those who believed it was not a delaying tactic.

The implication of this finding is that the Sandiganbayan can ignore Estrada's charges that it is rushing to render a guilty verdict, and simply do its job regardless of Estrada's cheap stunts that pander to the emotion and prejudices of the gallery.

Most of the people have apparently accepted the view that the resolution of the issue of whether Estrada looted wealth during his presidency should be done in the courts—not in the streets.

Estrada has shifted his efforts from the courts to the streets to avoid a judicial decision—a diversionary tactic that does not at all address the question of his guilt or innocence.

On the anniversary of his arrest in April last year, Estrada has put out on TV a documentary defending his innocence. The documentary emphasizes the worn-out themes that he is still the legal president, and that the successor administration has done little for the poor, claiming that they are poorer now than they were during his presidency. The claim can be thrown back at him with the question: What has he done for the poor, except pay lip service to them? It has been demonstrated emphatically that corruption is anti-poor because it transfers wealth from the poor to the powerful.

Despite the survey results, the administration moved to stop the exhibition of the documentary over ABC 5 and the Iglesia ni Cristo's Net 25 in another case of panicky overreaction. The administration apparently fears that the film might stir up passions in the run-up to the anniversary of the May 1 siege on Malacañang mounted by Estrada's followers.

What the survey indicates is that there was no need to suspend the film because the people have made it clear that the cases should be decided in the courts and not in the streets. The film is a fraudulent presentation of the events leading to Estrada's ouster. It is a big bore and the public recognizes it as such.

Privileged loans

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

REP. Raul M. Gonzalez has introduced a resolution calling for the investigation of the P636-million loan obtained by the Manila Hotel from the Government Service Insurance System. The loan has not been paid so far. Demand letters have reportedly been sent to Emilio Yap, who took over the Manila Hotel in 1997 following the dubious decision of the Supreme Court in Manila Prince Hotel v. GSIS, 267 SCRA 408. Yap says he never contracted the loan and refuses to pay it. The GSIS claims he assumed the loan when he bought the controlling stock in the Manila Hotel.

To me, the issue is not who is liable for the payment of the loan, but why it was extended in the first place and, no less important, why it has not been paid at all. Is it the standard practice of the GSIS to not act on loans that have long been due and demandable and not even insist on payment of at least the interest? This appears to be what has happened in the Manila Hotel case.

At the very least, the probe should disclose the huge loans the GSIS has been giving to privileged individuals who have not been paying them while living it up as if they were spending their own money. I would not be surprised if the inquiry should reveal some very important persons whom the GSIS dare not dun for fear of retaliation for its temerity. Among these could be powerful politicians, or certain figures under their protection, who are leading apparently affluent lives on their unpaid debts.

The funds of the GSIS belong to its members, the majority of whom are from the middle income class. Their monthly salaries are automatically reduced by their compulsory contributions to the System, which is supposed to help them in times of need and when they retire. Many of them, however, are unable to borrow even modest amounts for lack of collaterals or non-compliance with the usual bureaucratic red tape. By contrast, persons with influential offices or powerful ties are able to negotiate loans of hundreds of millions of pesos on the strength only of their prestige or connections.

It will be interesting to study from the records of the GSIS the many prominent "wealthy" people who are able to enjoy fabulous lifestyles by grace of the money they have borrowed without repayment from the GSIS funds contributed by its humble members. I would not be surprised if this research were to expose many prominent VIPs from the government and the private sector whom the GSIS does not have the nerve to sue for their defaults.

In Valmonte v. Belmonte, 170 SCRA 256, the Supreme Court sustained the petitioner, who wanted to verify the rumor that the GSIS had extended clean loans to members of the defunct Batasang Pambansa on recommendation of Imelda Marcos. The decision held that this was a matter of public concern covered by Art. III, Sec. 7 of the present Constitution. The funds of the GSIS are public in nature and the people have a right to know how they are being administered or, worse, misspent.

The GSIS was established for the benefit primarily of the modest income members and not the privileged beneficiaries who rely on their political immunity for not bothering to pay their honest debts to this agency. The total indebtedness of its delinquent borrowers could run into the billions of pesos that, if collected, could go a long way in alleviating the problems of the poor.

The House of Representatives is on the right track in also investigating the huge behest loans granted by the Philippine National Bank, another government-controlled entity known to be a milking cow of favored individuals. Dante Tan, who is know facing prosecution for the BW Resources fraud, is reported to have obtained from the PNB a P600-million loan without adequate collateral during the incumbency of Joseph Estrada. The inquiry should also cover possible cans of worms in the other government lending institutions like the Land Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Social Security System.

The investigation of the GSIS and PNB loans may not only lead to their collection with interest but also reveal other similar transactions that have been quietly dormant these many years. The probe could expose to public calumny and indignation those privileged debtors of our government lending institutions who are living extravagant and ostentatious lives at the expense of the public.

The probers may not find it easy to handle Emilio Yap and Dante Tan, who are not the usual run of witnesses they can badger for the diversion of the admiring gallery. Yap is not called "Don" by his flatterers for nothing, and Tan is not above dropping intimidating names for his purposes, as Perfecto Yasay testified at the impeachment trial. Fortunately, Congressman Gonzalez is not one to be easily daunted and so also, let us hope, are the other investigators.

My only misgiving is that the probe will go the way of most legislative investigations, which are held with so much fanfare for the diversion of the public, only to be quietly swept under the rug like the Panfilo Lacson case. And now we have another legislative inquiry with the likes of Yap and Tan as the powerful and controversial subjects. Will it also enter furiously like a roaring lion and exit meekly like a bleating lamb? Keep your fingers crossed.

Changes in the SSS

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CORAZON de la Paz needs her job as president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System (SSS) like she needs a hole in the head. But it is clear that she loves the challenge, as well as her country.

In the short time that she has been at it, one has to give her an "A" for effort in addressing the agency's problems, which can be classified into two general categories: those created by politicians and those created by the SSS itself.

Under the first category can be listed the politicians' penchant for increasing SSS benefits (particularly when Labor Day comes around) in order to earn brownie points from their constituents, while at the same time refusing to raise the SSS contribution rate—it hasn't been changed in 20 years, and at 8.4 percent is not only lower than the GSIS contribution rate of 21 percent, but is also probably the lowest in Asia.

De la Paz is not so politically naïve as to think that those benefits can be reduced. (Did you know that a member who has made even just one contribution—the minimum at that—is already entitled to death benefits, which are currently valued at P12,000?) However, ever since she started her job, she has been relentlessly pushing for an increase in the contribution rates, briefing anyone and everyone who will listen. While she has not so far succeeded in getting her rate increase, she at least has raised the awareness level of the decision-makers—or those who exert influence on the one person who has the legal authority to raise those rates: the President.

Politicians have also been accustomed to using the SSS as a milking cow by influencing the loan and investment decisions of the agency. But not any longer. De la Paz has been able to hold the line on this, mainly because she didn't want the job and she has no political debts to pay.

Even more impressive has been De la Paz's success in reducing the administrative expenses of the SSS. Nothing and no one was spared by De la Paz's expenditure pruning shears: personnel-related expenses like the provident fund contributions of the SSS (reduced from 25 percent to 15 percent); employee gift checks (down from P40,000 to P10,000); salary adjustments of the Career Executive Service Officers (deferred); discretionary allowances of SSS senior officials (abolished); housing allowance (none after the third year); uniform allowance of AVPs and above (suspended); food allowance for Christmas (suspended); subsidies on car registration and insurance premiums (abolished); overtime service (suspended).

Other operating expenses, such as advertising, corporate donations, office supplies and materials, furniture and equipment, foreign travel, vehicle use, got the axe. Not even newspaper and magazine subscriptions were held sacred. Nor was cell-phone usage.

All these have resulted, so far, in expected savings of something like P338 million for the year, with employee morale remaining unaffected.

Much more problematic than reducing expenditures has been improving the efficiency of the SSS in the performance of its duties. The magnitude of the problem which De la Paz faces in this regard is reflected in the delinquency rate of the SSS salary loans.

The delinquency rate is mind-boggling. Out of a total salary loans outstanding (as of Dec. 31, 2001) of P20.6 billion, only P14 million, or less than one-tenth of one percent (0.07 percent, to be exact) are current. In other words, only 29,742 out of a total of over 4,725,738 accounts (0.63 percent) are current.

Even if one decided to include as "current" the loans that have been in arrears for up to 11 months, the delinquency rate would still be something like 77 percent for accounts and 87 percent of loans outstanding.

Scandalous.

At first glance, it would appear that not only politicians and SSS officers and employees are responsible for turning the agency into a milking cow: the member-borrowers seem to be deadbeats of the first order.

But a closer examination would indicate that the problem may not lie so much in the member-borrowers' lackadaisical approach to loan repayment, but in the SSS' lackadaisical approach to loan collection.

One must remember that the payment of these loans are automatically deducted from the borrowers' wages and salaries and supposedly remitted to the SSS. How then can the delinquency rate be so high? Well, the employee might lose his job—but it is kind of hard to believe that two million member-borrowers have been out of a job for more than five years at that. Or, the moment he gets the loan, he quits his job, looks for another job and deliberately gets another SSS number so he cannot be traced—but this, too is unlikely since the job market is not a supplier's market, and people hang on to the jobs they hold for dear life. Or the employers may be the bad guys, not remitting what they have deducted from the borrowers.

Except for the matter of unemployment, which as we said is improbable, the other possibilities can certainly be neutralized by a minimally efficient SSS. After all, how difficult can it be to check out employees with the same name (and birthdays) but with a different number, or to make routine checks on employers who fail to remit either contributions or repayments?

Raising SSS efficiency to that minimum level will be De la Paz's greatest challenge. But if anyone can do it, she can.

NOHS created Negros middle class

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I WAS in Bacolod City recently to accompany my husband who attended the centennial homecoming last week of his high school alma mater, the Negros Occidental High School (NOHS), one of the largest public high schools in the country. A singular honor was bestowed on him, as he was chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Alumni for the 100 years of the NOHS, alongside personalities now deceased, who have become part of our history: Commissioner Jorge B. Vargas, Speaker Jose A. Yulo, 1971 Constitutional Convention Delegate and former Rep. Carlos Hilado, 1935 Con-Con Delegate Jesus Perez, Ambassador Emilio Abello, former Bacolod Mayor and Negros Gov. Felix Amante, former Rep. Innocencio Ferrer, and UN Undersecretary Rafael Salas, who was once the country's candidate for UN secretary general. The only other living awardee was former Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing.

* * *

In addition to the 10 centennial alumni, there were distinguished alumni chosen for each of NOHS' 10 decades who made good in various fields of endeavor. Class '54 to which my husband belongs had three members who won this honor: Makati corporate lawyer Noel Laman, economist Wilhelmina Gonzalez, chair of the Negros Women of Tomorrow Foundation whose major project is micro-lending to nearly 40,000 poor women in Negros and Northern Cebu; and retired Navy Commodore Edgardo Gallos. Another good friend of ours who was cited was lawyer Simplicio A. Palanca, who is credited with the ambitious, multi-billion reclamation project in Bacolod.

* * *

The NOHS alumni, a good number of whom came all the way from the United States, were determined to make the centennial celebration truly memorable. Postmaster General Nicasio P. Rodriguez came to Bacolod City to launch the commemorative centennial stamp depicting the colonial-era façade of the NOHS, a collaborative effort of classes '54, '55 and '56. The city also saw the longest motorcade ever in its history and the different classes held their own special celebrations. Among the projects to be launched will be the P40-million NOHS multi-purpose gym target for completion in 2005.

* * *

After 100 years, the NOHS can boast of a bumper crop of graduates who have made names for themselves in various fields and who have occupied high positions in the three branches of government and the various professions. This high school was established by Act 372 of the Philippine Commission passed on March 7, 1901, during the American colonial era. The edict empowered the various provincial boards across the country to provide funds for the establishment of a secondary school in each province, patterned after the American system. Accordingly, Division Superintendent George W. Bettie opened in Bacolod what was first called Instituto Rizal, the forerunner of the NOHS, on July 1, 1902, with three teachers and 125 students.

It is commonly believed that two former leaders of the short-lived Republica de Negros, former Minister of Justice Antonio Jayme and former Gov. Melecio Severino, played a role in its founding. Jayme, Severino's rival for governor in the 1899 elections, rented out his house for the first classrooms and dorms of the school. Ray B. Howell, one of the Thomasites assigned to introduce the new US public school system here, became its first principal. Closed from September to November of that year because of a cholera epidemic, the school by 1903 already had some 166 students and four teachers. During World War II, the NOHS became the provincial headquarters of the Japanese occupation forces, and its grounds served as the temporary gravesite for hundreds of Filipino soldiers and guerrillas.

* * *

Today, the NOHS is the premier public high school in Western Visayas, with about 7,000 students and close to 280 faculty members. But to my mind, its biggest contribution has been the creation of a middle class in Negros Occidental. It would be no exaggeration to say that the NOHS has helped shape the changing political landscape of the island.

Once upon a time, Negros could not boast of a middle class, as it was dominated by the sugar barons and landed gentry in the heyday of the sugar industry. In past decades, there was little else between the *hacenderos* and their *inquilinos*. The collapse of the sugar industry in the late 1970s and early 1980s has since changed the sociological and political complexion of Negros society, but I suspect that even without the collapse things were bound to change, for a middle class was emerging.

* * *

The children of Negros' wealthy families studied in various exclusive schools in Manila, and others found their way to schools in the United States. I recall that in the convent school next to Malacañang where I spent over a decade, many children of the *hacenderos* lived as *internas*. Topnotch private schools in Bacolod such as La Consolacion and De la Salle University were still not around then. For the great many from the poorer families as well as the children of low-salaried bureaucrats like my father-in-law, a Bulakeño named Carlos Cunanan, who was connected with the Bureau of Forestry in Pulupandan and Mambucal, however, there was only the NOHS for generations. To its portals they trooped for the education they desperately needed to gain upward mobility in a highly stratified feudal society.

In the NOHS, there was ruthless competition among the brainier kids, and the best and the brightest went on to the colleges and universities where they excelled, largely because of the solid academic training they got from their high school. Needless to say, many of them chose to leave Negros, but the alumni who chose to stay became the nucleus of Negros' new middle class. Over the past 100 years there have been innumerable public schools, but few can claim the singular role that the NOHS played in the transformation of a feudal society.

I am a vampire

YOUNGBLOOD

Julian

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I AM one of the scourges of mortals. I am not evil, but I am no angel either. I am, by preference, practical. Practical, in a sense, that I am evil when I am being repressed and good, when I feel everyone is looking up to me. I am immortal but I have a boundless energy that has been honed and polished after many years. I am powerful and I have an insatiable lust for respect. By the way, I am 500 years old, but I feel like I have lived more than a million. Yes, I am a vampire. Mind you, not evil or good. Just a practical vampire.

Let me tell you about my goodness. With my boundless power and energy, I can easily prey on anyone. But I do not. I have a sensible mind so that I can tell if you deserve to live in this surreal mass of dirt and salty water. Yes, I can take life away from mere mortals, with one exception: a captivating, long-haired woman, with long slender legs, a perfect face radiating innocence. She can stop my heart for a decade, and this kind, I will set free. This kind wields more power than I. She is so powerful that I am easily subdued and my energy is gone. Beauty is so powerful. Beauty works like a tremendous electrical surge that stops my mental faculties and metabolism. Beauty is a parasite. From this kind, I distance myself. Appreciation from a distance. Captivation by feeling. Replenishment through beauty.

A mother and child, full of love and exuding warmth, I will set free. A father, a good provider of love and discipline, I will set free. Humility and the absence of pretense pulverizes my desire to seduce and take advantage. These are the kind who are worthy of sharing the extreme beauty of this dirt land and the liquids flowing from the heavens. I want them to be nourished with this green environment that grows after every change of the sun.

But they are a minority. Although I cannot claim to be their protector, I cannot fully shield them from a more powerful energy. It is a very powerful entity that I can only describe as grotesque.

But I never lose hope. I sense an ancient power supporting this minority. This one, I cannot describe. I have a feeling that I was once of their own kind, blanketed by this power I have long ago buried in the depths of my innards. I don't know...

I want to talk of what I do to the other kind. They are the ones I relish destroying. Arrogance and disrespect are in their nature. They are morally bankrupt. And yet most of them are great warriors.

Yes, they were once like me, oppressed and deprived of the vast bounty that abounds on this dirt land. They exerted every effort to gain their share of the bounty. And they got more than they can handle. They absorbed every power from those who are now in the minority, almost draining them of everything. They never looked back, afraid that if they did their possession would be diminished. I cannot explain how their power developed to an extreme, almost like the grotesque power that I have described earlier.

There are legions of them. Armies. Great warriors. They are skilled but they lack something. I don't know what. I can subdue them but I have to exert great effort to do so. They could have dealt me a mortal blow, but I survived.

Yes, I have had many encounters with them. I cannot avoid them. Their kind are numerous, each one possessing different powers. They often surprise me. The less powerful want a piece of me, to drain me of my power. Of course, I never yield. These puny immortals are no match for me.

But some of them can bring me down, make me weary and I have to fight hard against them. Most of them are my acquaintance, people close to me. Some befriend me and take advantage of me. I am immortal, yet sometimes I act like a fool. Countless daggers have been stuck in my back. Some of them, I pulled out with extreme pain. But most of them remained embedded. They serve as a badge of honor, a reminder of the scars I got from devious schemes of my "acquaintances."

They are always drawn to me. My mere presence stirs the evil within them and they conspire to intimidate me. But I cannot be intimidated. I guess I am too sly and cunning. When I face 10 of this kind, I subdue their chief first, absorbing the puny thrusts of the others. The chief usually puts up a good fight. They are great warriors, late great warriors.

I don't mean that I never lose, it's just that I lose only battles, not the wars. I never had to lick my wounds.

But I do cry. I cry unabashedly not for my failures but for the other kind. Why? Because I trust them. I even honor them, praise them and call them brothers. And when they turn against me, I cry. Not with the usual tears, but I cry in anguish. It is more like the cry of a banshee. I cry because I will lose them. I cry over tragedy, a tragedy because I cannot let them walk on this dirt land. I will destroy them. I will deprive them of the things that made them what they were then and what they are now.

You may sense my hatred for their kinds. Surely you will. I despise them as much as the slimy things that feed on the stinking innards of corpses that litter the plains.

I hope you understand what I am, and what am I to you. My existence is the mirror of your life. Relate to me. Understand. Just knowing my existence will have a profound effect on your life. That is, if you have an open mind. You may be one of me, but you refuse to be counted on my side. But you need not be me. That is why you may not understand.

Most of you are trapped in the quest for material wealth and success. That comes with greed.

I offer you a chance to walk on this dirt land and drink from its fullness, so exquisite and so intriguing. Do you share my wonder? I am not being judgmental. What you need to do is help me preserve this beauty. Sow the seeds of morality. Open your mind. Remember that the one absolute power did not create time. He created unconditional love. That is why that absolute power created you free. Free to do good and evil. Remember:

Freedom is your choice,
a matter of choosing options,
but always bear in mind:
If you stray,
I will not hesitate to slay.

Julian, 27, is an architect who doesn't want his "acquaintances" to think he is stabbing them in the back.

Listening with respect

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT is—or should be—the attitude of Catholic priests and bishops on responsible parenthood and family planning? Are the two incompatible or intrinsically linked? Do Catholic married couples who use so-called "artificial"—or as they are better known in the rest of the world, "modern"—means of contraception committing a sin each time, say, the man puts on a condom or a woman gulps down an oral contraceptive pill?

That "contraception is a sin" has long been the impression among Filipino Catholics, bolstered in no small part by thunderous sermons from church pulpits condemning the "contraceptive mentality" and equating this with abortion. But the Church's position is really far more subtle and less monolithic than we might think.

Yesterday, I mentioned a pastoral letter issued last April 7 by Bishop Antonio Ledesma, S.J. of the Prelature of Ipil in which he attempted to outline a "pastoral approach" to natural family planning for his prelature while clarifying his, or the local Church's, stand on "family planning and related issues." A bishop, I must make clear at this point, is the ultimate authority and representative of the Pope in his area. Though dioceses and archdioceses vary in terms of size, population, wealth and influence, in terms of authority at the local level, all bishops are equal and autonomous.

* * *

"THE CHURCH is not against the goal of family planning. Neither is she simply for large families," declares Bishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J.

Bishop Ledesma attempts to place "responsible parenthood" in the context of what he calls "the married couple's recognition of their relationship toward God, their family, society at large and themselves." In relation to the family, for instance, the couple must decide for themselves "the number of children that (they) would like to have and can adequately raise, including the spacing of children." As for themselves, the couple has the right, says the bishop, to "exercise their freedom to decide for themselves based on an informed choice and a well-formed conscience."

"By way of contrast," writes Bishop Ledesma, "irresponsible parenthood connotes a couple's failure to take into account any or several of these relationships."

But even as they share the teaching of the Church on responsible parenthood, Bishop Ledesma admits that "as pastors we cannot close our eyes and ears to the practical difficulties experienced by many couples today with regard to their desire and unmet needs for family planning."

Some Church workers, he notes, tend to take a condemnatory attitude toward couples who say they intend to use modern contraception in planning their family. Worse, "it is regrettable that some Church workers...taking advantage of the ignorance of ordinary people impute equal or even greater guilt and culpability for actions that should be clearly distinguished. For instance, contraception is NOT (*underscoring in the original*) the same as abortion. In the first place, there is no conception; hence no life is involved. In abortion, an innocent life is taken away and represents a serious violation of the fifth commandment."

* * *

IN THE COURSE of discussions among the priests in his prelature, wrote Bishop Ledesma, several questions have been raised about the "proper" approach to take in counseling couples on responsible parenthood and family planning.

"Can we make blanket statements, like 'Artificial contraception is a mortal sin'?" (*The bishop notes that this was once painted on the wall of a parish formation center.*) "Can we 'excommunicate' catechists or (parish) workers from approaching the sacraments or continuing with their volunteer services to the church, simply because they are known to have used contraceptives?"

Here's what he has to say: "It seems to me that matters of conscience cannot be publicly judged nor made a matter of ecclesial ostracism. The act itself may be considered as intrinsically evil and a grave matter, but there is a host of circumstances surrounding the persons involved that have to be considered—matters that are best left in the internal forum of one's conscience, between the penitent and the confessor, and before the mystery of the Father's mercy.

"In the net balance of what is evil or less than ideal in the world today, it seems that there are many more social sins that need to be denounced publicly (from drug pushing to corruption in public office) rather than stigmatizing the private failings of married couples."

* * *

IN LIGHT of these insights and pastoral issues, Bishop Ledesma says he is now inclined to "explore the possibility of moving from the Church's earlier position of critical non-collaboration with government to one of principled collaboration" on the issue of family planning, particularly in more vigorously promoting natural family planning.

"Aside from tapping the resources of government to promote natural family planning," he said, "a collaborative effort would enable the Church to share her value orientation with government workers, many of whom are Catholics of good will. Would this not be a way too for the Church to enter into a dialogue on family life in the marketplace itself?"

As a Catholic, a woman and a mother, I would like to say thank you to Bishop Ledesma. Not just because his words are a source of comfort and affirmation, but more so because they speak of a listening attitude, an attitude of respect toward the ability of women and couples to make reproductive decisions according to their conscience and moral compass. May this new path lead to even more open and compassionate dialogue.

A history of time and then some

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

SINCE the news these past weeks has been grim and grimmer, I thought I'd share with you a couple of laughs from my e-mail. Feel free to add your own. I'm sure our own history can stand some more inventions.

Part I (The B.C. Years)

4314 BC: "Scattered @#$% showers....My ass!"**—Noah**

3050 B.C.: A Sumerian invents the wheel. Within the week, the idea is stolen and duplicated by other Sumerians, thereby establishing the business ethic for all times.

2900 B.C.: The Egyptians call that new thing a Sphinx, which becomes the first of the world's Seven Great Wonders.

1850 B.C.: Britons proclaim Operation Stonehenge a success. They've finally gotten those boulders arranged in a sufficiently meaningless pattern to confuse the hell out of scientists for centuries.

1785 B.C.: The first calendar, composed of a year with 354 days, is introduced by Babylonian scientists.

1768 B.C.: Babylonians realize something is wrong when winter begins in June.

776 B.C.: The world's first known money appears in Persia, immediately causing the world's first known counterfeiter to appear in Persia the next day.

525 B.C.: The first Olympics are held, and prove similar to the modern games, except that the Russians don't try to enter a six-footer with a mustache in the women's shot put. However, the Egyptians do!

410 B.C.: Rome ends the practice of throwing debtors into slavery, thus removing the biggest single obstacle to the development of the credit card.

404 B.C.: The Peloponnesian war has been going on for 27 years now because neither side can find a treaty writer who knows how to spell Peloponnesian.

214 B.C.: Tens of thousands of Chinese labor for a generation to build the 1,500-mile-long Great Wall of China. And after all that, it still doesn't keep the neighbor's dog out.

1 B.C.: Calendar manufacturers find themselves in total disagreement over what to call next year.

Part II (The A.D. Years)

79 A.D.: Buying property in Pompeii turns out to have been a lousy real estate investment.

432: St. Patrick introduces Christianity to Ireland, thereby giving the natives something interesting to fight about for the rest of their recorded history.

1000: Leif Ericsson discovers America, but decides it's not worth mentioning.

1043: Lady Godiva finds a means of demonstrating against high taxes that immediately makes everyone forget what she is demonstrating against.

1125: Arabic numerals are introduced to Europe, enabling peasants to solve the most baffling problem that confronts them: How much tax do you owe on MMMDCCCLX Lira when you're in the XXXVI percent bracket?

1233: The Inquisition is set up to torture and kill anyone who disagrees with the Law of the Church. However, the practice is so un-Christian that it is permitted to continue for only 600 years.

1297: The world's first stock exchange opens, but no one has the foresight to buy IBM or Xerox.

1433: Portugal launches the African slave trade, which just proves what a small, ambitious country can do with a little bit of ingenuity and a whole lot of evil!

1456: An English judge reviews Joan of Arc's case and cancels her death sentence. Unfortunately for her, she was put to death in 1431.

1492: Columbus proves how lost he really is by landing in the Bahamas, naming the place San Salvador and calling the people who live there Indians.

1497: Amerigo Vespucci becomes the seventh or eighth explorer to come to the new world, but the first to think of naming it in honor of himself...the United States of Vespuccia!

1508: Michelangelo finally agrees to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. "You want WHAT on the @#$%ing ceiling?"

1513: Ponce de Leon claims to have found the Fountain of Youth, but dies of old age trying to remember where it was he found it.

1522: Scientists, who know the world is flat, conclude that Magellan made it all the way around by crawling across the bottom. (Comment from my niece: Besides they got the wrong guy—it's Sebastian del Cano who did it—Magellan got killed by Lapu-Lapu in 1521! My comment: We mustn't forget Enrique de Malacca as Pigafetta called him although Carlos Quirino wrote he came from Carcar but doesn't provide his source. And naturally Pigafetta himself.)

1568: Saddened over the slander of his good name, Ivan the Terrible kills another 100,000 peasants to make them stop calling him Ivan the Terrible.

1607: The Indians laugh themselves silly as the first European tourist to visit Virginia tries to register as "John Smith."

1618: Future Generations are doomed as the English execute Sir Walter Raleigh, but allow his tobacco plants to live.

1642: Nine students receive the first Bachelor of Arts degrees conferred in America, and immediately discover there are no jobs open for a kid with a liberal arts education.

1670: The pilgrims are too busy burning false witches to observe the golden anniversary of their winning religious freedom. ***(To be continued)***

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Doronila is correct in stating that we "committed ourselves to rapid dismantling of tariffs and trade barriers even before we have erected safety nets to enable our industries to stand up to international trade competition." However, instead of taking the next logical step of examining why we did so, he went on to attack Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, his grandfather and something he calls "protectionist nostalgia."

How can anybody be nostalgic about protectionism when our laws and economic policies throughout the 20th century have been permeated with the ideological fervor of the free traders and globalists? We were free traders when the whole world, including the United States with its massive "overt" (Doronila's term) subsidies to agriculture and industries and its even more massive "covert" (again, Doronila's term) subsidies to its industries through its huge defense budgets even during times of peace, was protectionist. We were globalized even before the term globalization was coined.

Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), developing countries have until 2020 to liberalize their economies while for developed countries the deadline was 2010. Why did the Ramos administration not use that time to stretch out our commitments? Why do we have to be ahead or at par with developed countries and established NICs like Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and even Malaysia in liberalizing imports? I can only speculate that the answer lies in ideological fervor.

The free traders and globalists in this country are not much different from the communist apparatchiks of the old Soviet Union. The Soviets regarded the tenets of Marx and Engels of state ownership of the means of production and centralization as demigod pronouncements. Filipino free traders and globalists, on the other hand, tend to view as sacred incantations the teachings of Adam Smith and David Ricardo on the virtues of the supposed invisible hand of the market. Assuming there is a better future for us under globalization and free trade, we need to reexamine our commitments with far less wishful thinking based on ideology and more common sense rooted in reality.

Finally, Doronila's point that "consumers' voices are hardly heard" assumes that they would oppose "buy Filipino" or protectionism. Import liberalization and globalization have decimated the ranks of the consumers (how can you be a consumer when you are unemployed or underemployed in a sea of supposedly cheap imported goods?). People who have been so marginalized no longer have the luxury of wishful thinking while struggling to survive.

—ELIAS JOSE M. INCIONG, E.J.M. Inciong Law Offices, Suite 301 Union Square Condominium, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

Bad example from 'environmentalists'

THIS is with regard to the article, titled "Stars join Banahaw cause," by Volt Contreras. (PDI, 4/15/02)

Eco-activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez still lets her household help burn their rubbish in their yard. I live across her house, and I often see their "boy" burning dried leaves and some other trash instead of putting it in a sack to be picked up by the garbage truck which fortunately passes by regularly and sometimes even daily.

I have also witnessed Jim Paredes' houseboy burning dried leaves and some refuse in front of their house (Jim lives next door to Chin-Chin, by the way).

This has always been a problem in our community and somehow these so-called environmentalists are contributing to the problem, not its solution.

I'm no environmentalist but from the way it looks, it seems this is not the proper way to dispose of garbage. And also there's that Clean Air Act I heard about somewhere. Not good at all.

—ARCHIE LUNA, turs@edsamail.com.ph

Easy way to catch cell-phone thieves

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission and the major cell-phone operators should take a cue from the apprehension of the woman who got Ms Pahaling's SIM card. Instead of blocking off a cell phone after it has been reported stolen, Globe, Smart, Touch and, Talk & Text should offer fictitious prizes to people holding the SIMs of stolen phones and pounce on the culprits when they claim the prize. Only after a waiting period of maybe a week should the phone be blocked. This will decrease the number of thieves on the streets.

May I say that the move of the NTC to no longer require a police report but only show proof of ownership is a wise decision. I personally know of persons with stolen phones who do not want to report their phones stolen because of the hassle of getting a police report.

—R LACANILAO MD, lacanilao@yahoo.com

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Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), developing countries have until 2020 to liberalize their economies while for developed countries the deadline was 2010. Why did the Ramos administration not use that time to stretch out our commitments? Why do we have to be ahead or at par with developed countries and established NICs like Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and even Malaysia in liberalizing imports? I can only speculate that the answer lies in ideological fervor.

The free traders and globalists in this country are not much different from the communist apparatchiks of the old Soviet Union. The Soviets regarded the tenets of Marx and Engels of state ownership of the means of production and centralization as demigod pronouncements. Filipino free traders and globalists, on the other hand, tend to view as sacred incantations the teachings of Adam Smith and David Ricardo on the virtues of the supposed invisible hand of the market. Assuming there is a better future for us under globalization and free trade, we need to reexamine our commitments with far less wishful thinking based on ideology and more common sense rooted in reality.

Finally, Doronila's point that "consumers' voices are hardly heard" assumes that they would oppose "buy Filipino" or protectionism. Import liberalization and globalization have decimated the ranks of the consumers (how can you be a consumer when you are unemployed or underemployed in a sea of supposedly cheap imported goods?). People who have been so marginalized no longer have the luxury of wishful thinking while struggling to survive.

—ELIAS JOSE M. INCIONG, E.J.M. Inciong Law Offices, Suite 301 Union Square Condominium, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

Bad example from 'environmentalists'

THIS is with regard to the article, titled "Stars join Banahaw cause," by Volt Contreras. (PDI, 4/15/02)

Eco-activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez still lets her household help burn their rubbish in their yard. I live across her house, and I often see their "boy" burning dried leaves and some other trash instead of putting it in a sack to be picked up by the garbage truck which fortunately passes by regularly and sometimes even daily.

I have also witnessed Jim Paredes' houseboy burning dried leaves and some refuse in front of their house (Jim lives next door to Chin-Chin, by the way).

This has always been a problem in our community and somehow these so-called environmentalists are contributing to the problem, not its solution.

I'm no environmentalist but from the way it looks, it seems this is not the proper way to dispose of garbage. And also there's that Clean Air Act I heard about somewhere. Not good at all.

—ARCHIE LUNA, turs@edsamail.com.ph

Easy way to catch cell-phone thieves

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission and the major cell-phone operators should take a cue from the apprehension of the woman who got Ms Pahaling's SIM card. Instead of blocking off a cell phone after it has been reported stolen, Globe, Smart, Touch and, Talk & Text should offer fictitious prizes to people holding the SIMs of stolen phones and pounce on the culprits when they claim the prize. Only after a waiting period of maybe a week should the phone be blocked. This will decrease the number of thieves on the streets.

May I say that the move of the NTC to no longer require a police report but only show proof of ownership is a wise decision. I personally know of persons with stolen phones who do not want to report their phones stolen because of the hassle of getting a police report.

—R LACANILAO MD, lacanilao@yahoo.com

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel defies Bush, raids W. Bank city

BUSH and Abdullah in the former's ranch in Crawford, Texas. AFP

QALQILYA, West Bank—Israeli forces raided the West Bank city of Qalqilya on Friday despite a fresh call from US President George W. Bush for Israel to complete a pullout from re-occupied Palestinian areas.

The army said troops had detained at least 13 Palestinians "suspected of carrying out terrorist activities against Israeli citizens" in the sweeps through Qalqilya and the villages of Beita, Silt a-Dhar and Jaba'a.

Witnesses said about 15 tanks and armored personnel carriers pushed into Qalqilya and that soldiers conducted house-to-house searches after declaring a curfew.

The operation followed talks Bush held at his Texas ranch with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, who warned the US president that the United States risked "grave consequences" for its Middle East interests if it did not moderate its support for Israel's military crackdown on the Palestinians.

Bush urged Israel to end peacefully its sieges of Yasser Arafat's office and Bethlehem's Nativity Church and to conclude a pullout from West Bank areas seized in a campaign launched on March 29 after suicide attacks had killed scores of Israelis.

But he also said Palestinians must do more.

In Bethlehem, Israel allowed nine Palestinians aged 14 to 20 to leave the church on Thursday along with the bodies of two men shot dead by Israeli troops.

Dozens of gunmen wanted by Israel have been holed up at the shrine, built over the site revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus, for three weeks. Israel demands the militants surrender for trial or go into exile.

Security sources said the nine young people released on Thursday had been taken into Israeli custody for medical treatment and questioning to determine if any had been involved in anti-Israeli violence. The sources said the group was likely to be released on Friday.

Another round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the fate of the 230 people inside, including gunmen, clerics and civilians, ended inconclusively on Thursday.

In New York, the United Nations said it was confident a UN fact-finding team set up following Palestinian allegations of massacres in the Jenin refugee camp during Israel's assault would arrive in the region as planned by the end of the week.

After having consented to the fact-finding mission, Israel urged the United Nations to make changes to the team, saying its members had a political tilt.

Israel had denied its forces committed atrocities in the Jenin camp, which it has described as a "hornet's nest of terrorism." It was to resume delicate talks with the UN on Friday on the scope of the mission.

At his ranch at Crawford, Bush told reporters: "Israel must finish its withdrawal, including resolution of standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem, in a non-violent way."

He added that Palestinians "must do more to stop terror."

Israeli troops surrounded Arafat's Ramallah compound at the start of their offensive. Israel has pulled back from most of cities but the Qalqilya raid marked the second time Israeli forces have gone back into the town since leaving on April 9. ***Reuters***

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10. Don't stand in a puddle or on a deep floor when connecting electric laundry appliances.

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Palestinians jail Zeevi's killers

RAMALLAH, West Bank—A Palestinian court jailed the killers of an Israeli minister in a trial on Thursday at Yasser Arafat's headquarters but Israel refused to lift its siege of the base, demanding extradition of the men.

Talks to resolve a standoff between Palestinian militants holed up inside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity and besieging Israeli troops broke off without result and the Palestinian side said it wanted to consult Arafat before resuming them.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon dismissed the Ramallah trial, saying he still wanted the four men extradited to Israel, along with a Palestinian official suspected of trying to smuggle weapons from Iran to Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Sharon, who sent tanks to ring the Palestinian leader's headquarters on March 29 at the start of a West Bank offensive launched after a spate of suicide bombings, said he would keep Arafat confined until he handed over the militants for trial.

A Palestinian Authority statement said the military court had sentenced four men to prison terms ranging from one to 18 years for their part in far-right tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi's assassination in October.

But in an interview with the New York Times published on Thursday, Sharon indicated he was considering letting Arafat leave his headquarters in Ramallah and move to the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat dismissed the suggestion, saying it masked plans by Sharon to reoccupy the West Bank and isolate it from Gaza.

In the interview, Sharon said the move would allow Arafat to demonstrate whether he was willing to put his security forces in Gaza to work stopping Palestinian violence against Israelis. He said he expected Arafat to fail the test. "With Arafat, no one will be able to make peace," Sharon was quoted as saying.

At least 1,313 Palestinians and 454 Israelis have been killed during a 19-month-old Palestinian uprising against occupation.

Arafat said Israeli policies had effectively destroyed an interim peace deal he signed in 1993 with Israel's then prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who was later assassinated.

"My peace of the brave that I signed with my partner Rabin has been demolished and canceled," he told reporters. ***Reuters***

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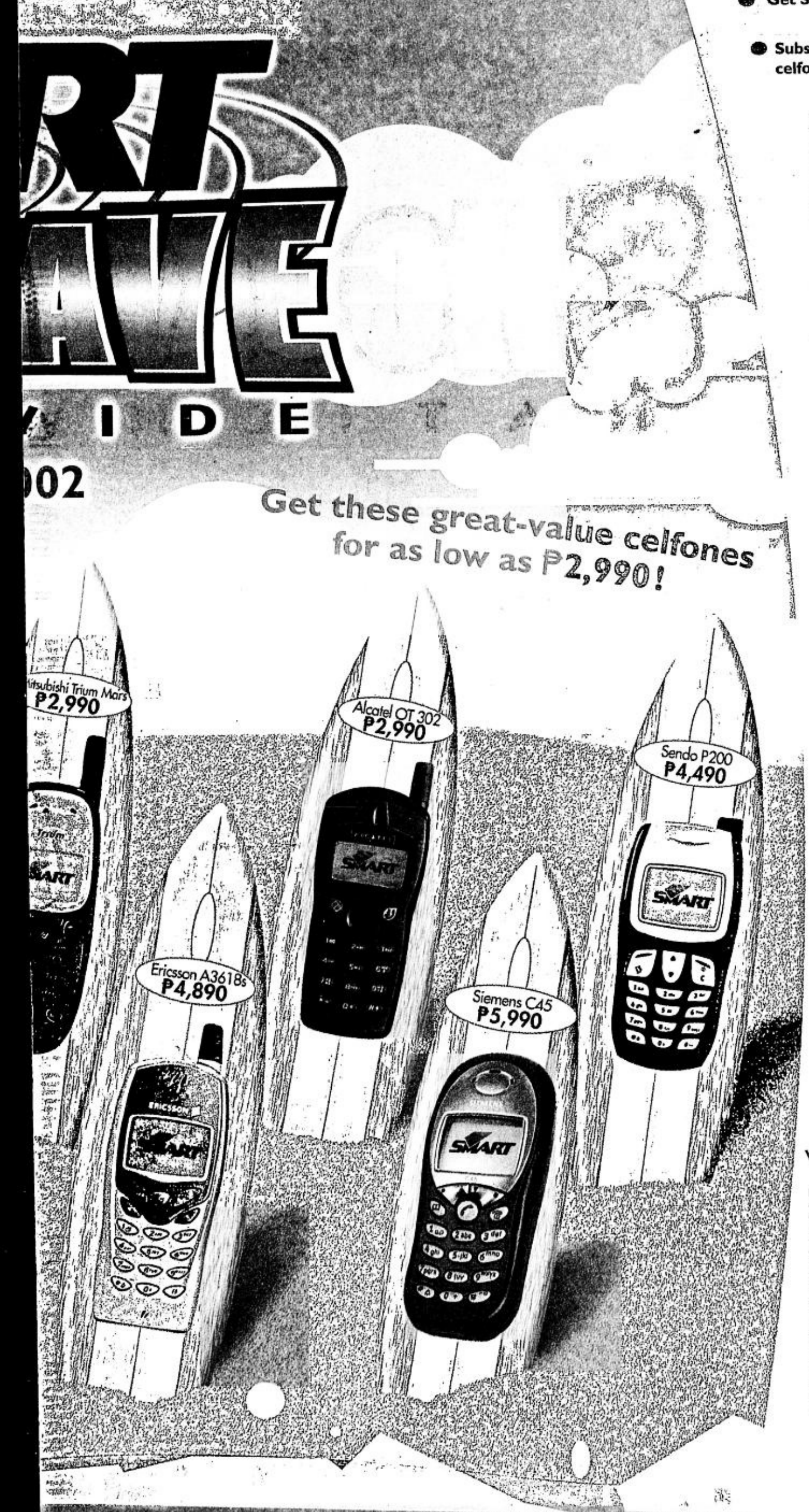

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SM Bacoor *(UG/F Centermall bet. Pizza Hut and French Baker)*

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Russia says it killed reviled top Chechen warlord

MOSCOW—Russia said on Thursday its troops had killed one of the country's most wanted and reviled men, Khattab, an Arab-born Chechen guerrilla leader with suspected links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The international terrorist Khattab, an ideologist and organizer of terrorist activity, has been eliminated as a result of a special operation by the Federal Security Service in the Chechen republic," a spokesperson for the Service said.

The Service, or FSB, produced no body or other evidence of Khattab's demise but the spokesperson said the domestic intelligence service would furnish proof later.

Khattab's death would be a coup for Moscow after over two years of failed efforts to kill or capture any leading warlord in the anti-Russian rebellion in Chechnya.

"If he really has been killed then it is a strike against terrorism," President Vladimir Putin said in a guarded first reaction to the report.

The Kremlin leader portrays Russia's 30-month Chechnya operation as a battle against the same kind of international terrorism that organized the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, in which some 3,000 people died.

But Putin said Khattab's death of itself would not end strife in the secessionist republic. The Chechnya campaign would only achieve its goals if military successes were followed up by political and social measures, he said.

Reports of Khattab's death—and that of another Chechen warlord topping Russia's "most-wanted" list, Shamil Basayev—have surfaced repeatedly but proven false.

Moscow sent troops into Chechnya in October 1999 for a second time to restore its rule. Despite quickly installing nominal control over most of the province, it has failed to stamp out the insurgency on its turbulent southern rim.

With troops killed almost daily in rebel attacks, Moscow has accused foreign mercenaries and their leader Khattab of fuelling guerrilla war. ***Reuters***

KHATTAB

12 killed in Pakistan mosque blast

ISLAMABAD—A bomb killed 12 women and children at a gathering of thousands of Shi'ite Muslims in the grounds of a mosque in central Pakistan, hospital officials said on Friday.

It was not immediately clear who planted the bomb, which wounded at least 23 people when it went off late on Thursday in Bhakkar in Punjab province, but residents said sectarian violence between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims was most likely to blame.

A witness said those killed included nine women and three children.

"We have now 14 wounded people. The rest have been discharged after administering first aid," a hospital official said by telephone.

The explosion occurred at around 11:30 p.m. in the women's section of the big, segregated gathering of Shi'ites in grounds belonging to a Shi'ite mosque and cemetery.

"We can't say whether it was a hand grenade or bomb planted," said Sohail Naqvi, son of local Shi'ite leader Wizarat Naqvi.

Residents said thousands of Shi'ites were at the mosque for an annual gathering to mourn the death of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussain, who died with 72 followers and family members at Karbala in Iraq in AD 680 during a battle with rival Yazid.

"Some unknown persons planted the explosive device," the official APP news agency quoted Bhakkar district police chief Khuram Gulzar as saying.

Until late into the night, mosques throughout the city were making announcements to help trace children lost in the chaos that followed the blast, the English-language daily The News reported.

Violence between the Sunni and Shi'ite sects of Islam has killed hundreds in Pakistan during the last decade. Shi'ites make up about 15 percent of Pakistan's 140 million people.

Tension between the two communities rose after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in neighboring Iran. Members of the two branches of Islam eat, work and socialize together but intermarriage is rare.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in January vowed to clamp down on sectarian extremism as part of a broader crackdown on Islamic militants.

Hundreds of activists from radical Sunni and Shi'ite groups were detained. Most have since been freed for lack of evidence.

Musharraf has thrown his weight behind the US-led war on terror since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, drawing the ire of some Islamic militant groups. ***Reuters***

Al-Qaida likely to launch Afghan spring offensive, says Rumsfeld

SHANNON, Ireland—Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters are likely to regroup for a spring offensive against Afghanistan's interim government and western troops there, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Friday.

Speaking as he flew to central Asia to discuss security concerns with leaders in Afghanistan and neighboring states, Rumsfeld said the anti-western guerrillas had gone into hiding after winter defeats in the frigid eastern Afghan mountains.

"My impression is that the al-Qaida and Taliban are avoiding, for the time being at least, concentrating themselves in larger groups," he told reporters en route from Washington to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, site of a major air base used by US and allied forces for strikes into Afghanistan.

"My guess is as spring comes and the weather improves, and as they find ways to communicate with each other, that they will probably again try to attack the interim (Afghan) authority and opposing factions in the country as well as US and coalition forces," the secretary said.

Rumsfeld's aircraft made a refueling stop in Ireland and he told reporters flying with him on the first leg of a four-day trip that he was going to Afghanistan chiefly to discuss ways of improving security in the unstable state headed by interim leader Hamid Karzai.

He planned to meet later on Friday with US and other coalition troops at Manas International Airport near Bishkek and hold talks early on Saturday with top officials of the former Soviet republic northeast of Afghanistan.

More than 1,900 servicemen from the United States, Australia, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and South Korea along with six US F/A-18 and six French Mirage strike jets are now at Manas after one-year agreements with Kyrgyzstan that provided territory and airspace for the international force.

Manas is the biggest coalition base in the region, with the number of its contingent expected to reach as many as 3,500 members. Troops from Poland, Turkey and Canada are due to arrive shortly.

Members of the US military's 376th Air Expeditionary Wing unofficially refer to the base as Ganci Air Base in honor of New York City Fire Chief Peter Ganci Junior, who was killed in the World Trade Center during the Sept. 11 attacks. ***Reuters***

AFP

LIBERATION DAY IN ITALY
A panoramic view of Dome's square in Milan shows thousands of people celebrating Italy's 57th anniversary of Liberation April 25.

Explosion rocks Manhattan buildings

NEW YORK—Thirty-five people were injured Thursday when an explosion rocked two lower Manhattan buildings, the New York Fire Department (FDNY) said, prompting fears of a repetition of the Sept. 11 attacks.

But there was no indication whatsoever that the blast was the result of any nefarious plot, a fire department spokesperson emphasized.

"There were men working on the boilers," said John Coloe, the deputy chief of FDNY's lower Manhattan division.

"There were flammable liquids and gases being used in part of the basement. It could have been any of those, or none of those," he said, adding that the blast was still under investigation.

FDNY spokesperson Frank Gribbon characterized as "serious" 10 of the injuries, some of which were a direct result of the explosion in the Chelsea district. Nine of the injured refused medical attention.

Burns and respiratory distress were among other ailments treated on the scene and at the nearby St. Vincent's Hospital, which also accepted the bulk of the casualties from the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Initial reports suggested that the blast was caused by an industrial accident or a technical mishap in the 10-story building housing the Apex Technical School, where adults learn welding, auto repair and refrigerator and air conditioning maintenance. ***AFP***

Probe report: Pilot error cause of SIA crash in Taipei

TAIPEI—Pilot error was a chief probable cause in the crash of a Singapore Airlines (SIA) jumbo jet that tried to take off on the wrong runway in Taipei and slammed into construction debris before bursting into flames, killing 83 people, the final crash report said Friday.

Wrapping up an investigation that lasted a year and a half, the Taiwanese-led probe also concluded that confusing runway markers and broken taxiway lights created a risk for the pilots in the October 2000 crash of Los Angeles-bound Flight SQ006.

"The flight crew did not review the taxi route in a manner sufficient to ensure they all understood" they were taking off on the correct runway, Taiwan's Aviation Safety Council said in statement released with the report.

The investigators decided not to blame the accident on specific things, such as pilot error, weather and airport problems. Instead, their report listed "probable causes" of the crash because the team wanted to let the courts settle the issues of blame and liability.

But Gerald Sterns, an attorney who specializes in air accidents, said that the obvious main cause of the crash was pilot error, or "operational error"—a term favored in the aviation industry.

"It is clearly that," said Sterns, based in Oakland, California.

The crash attracted much attention because Singapore Airlines has long been considered one of the world's safest airlines. Before the Taipei crash, the airline had never directly experienced a fatal accident in its 28-year history.

The pilots in Boeing 747-400 tried to take off in a heavy rainstorm brought by an approaching typhoon. Before the flight, the pilots were warned in a preflight briefing that a runway next to the one they were supposed to use was partially closed and cluttered with construction debris, including two mechanical shovels, the report said.

Despite the warnings, "the flight crew lost situational awareness and commenced takeoff on the wrong runway," the crash report said.

However, the crash report said the partially closed runway at Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport was not properly marked.

"The CKS airport should have placed runway closure markings adjacent to the construction area" on the closed runway, the report said.

There were a number of other things at the airport that did not meet international standards, the report said. For example, taxiway lights were broken. A centerline on the taxiway did not extend all the way to the lane where the plane should have taken off. Taxiway signs that guide planes to their takeoff positions were not

Huge army is guarantor of communist rule in North Korea

By Paul Eckert

SEOUL—North Korea's army, which marked its 70th anniversary on Thursday, has seen no major battlefield action since the Korean War, but remains the principal guarantor of communist rule in the impoverished state of 22 million people.

The Korean People's Army (KPA), the world's fifth largest army, is so dominant that foreign commentators have described North Korea as an army with a country—rather than a country with an army.

The official Korea Central News Agency said the North's political system was based "on the principle of attaching priority to the army and pushing forward the cause of socialism as a whole, with the army as the pillar and in reliance upon it."

Like much about North Korea, the KPA's origins are a mix of myth and history embellished to instill reverence for late state founder Kim Il-sung and his son, current leader Kim Jong-il.

The KPA was formally founded on Feb. 8, 1948—seven months before the founding of the North Korean state—and for 30 years, Feb. 8 was celebrated as Army day.

But in 1978, North Korea suddenly announced that its army was founded on April 25, 1932, when official histories say the 20-year-old Kim Il-sung formed a partisan group in Manchuria, China, according to US-based biographer Suh Dae-sook.

The Soviet-armed KPA first grabbed international attention on June 25, 1950, when it attacked South Korea with a withering pre-dawn mortar and artillery barrage, followed by an invasion by 10 divisions that easily overwhelmed the South's smaller army.

The attack invited a massive intervention by US-led multinational force fighting under the flag of the United Nations. UN forces aiding South Korea rolled back the KPA to Korea's border with China, almost wiping them out until Beijing intervened on North Korea's side in October 1950.

Chinese troops by the millions pushed UN forces back to a line roughly similar to the 38th parallel that separated North and South Korea before the war and which forms the border today.

Today, the KPA, with nearly 1.2 million troops on active duty, is the world's fifth largest army, behind those of China, the United States, Russia and India.

By percentage of troops to population, North Korea is the world's most militarized society, with about one in 20 people in uniform, augmented by a reserve force estimated at 4.7 million.

US military commanders estimated that at least two-thirds of the KPA troops and weapons are forward deployed, close to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which separates North and South Korea and within easy range of the South's capital, Seoul.

The United States maintains 37,000 troops in South Korea to augment Seoul's 600,000-strong military.

North Korea's military has big stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and an ambitious domestic ballistic missile program which has produced hundreds of medium-rage missiles for its arsenal and for sale abroad, according to the book "Armed Forces of North Korea," by Joseph Bermudez Jr.

Pyongyang's efforts to produce nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles capable of reaching Japan and parts of the United States brought it into conflict with Washington in the 1990s.

A 1994 US-North Korea agreement that froze the North's suspected nuclear program and Pyongyang's 1999 moratorium on missile testing will be at the top of the US diplomatic agenda with the North once the two sides resume long-frozen talks. ***Reuters***

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-il saluting his troops during a military parade in Pyongyang, April 25, to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country's army. AFP

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly over the Eastern section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 37° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/27/02

ROUNDUP

Bomb scare

BAGUIO CITY—Police here ordered an inspection of all establishments in the city after a package, believed to contain a bomb, was found at a shopping mall on Monday. Guards of the Baguio Center Mall alerted the Baguio police's bomb disposal unit after they found a leather bag left at the entrance of the mall's parking area at about 2 a.m. Monday. But when policemen opened the bag, they found only an empty thermos inside it. It was the fourth bomb scare incident reported to the Baguio police this year.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Election protest

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The Commission on Elections' second division issued a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) on Tuesday preventing the execution of a court order in favor of former Vice Mayor Romeo Venturina. The Comelec also directed Judge Wilfredo Nieves of the Malolos regional trial court to stop issuing orders on the election protest. Last week, Nieves ruled that Venturina won by 545 votes in the May 2001 elections over Mayor Edgardo Galvez. The Comelec earlier declared Galvez as mayor for garnering 11,479 votes against Venturina's 11,327 votes. Nieves said some votes for Galvez were written by one person.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Stray dogs

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Alerted over rabid-dog biting cases in the province, health officials here urged local government units to pass ordinances against stray dogs. Records showed that rabid dogs have bitten 60 persons from January to March this year. At least four victims were reported to have died from the virus this year, including a man and his son in Sta. Maria town.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Youth education

MALOLOS, Bulacan—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday released P2.5 million for a program to help more than 17,000 youths in the province. Dubbed as Oyster (Out of School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery), the program will send out-of-school youth back to school and educate them on how to fight drug menace in their villages. The President said the 17,000 youths would be given P5,000 each to help them finance their schooling and other activities.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

10 hurt in smashup

CALAMBA CITY—At least 10 passengers were injured in two collisions that involved six vehicles and caused about six hours of monstrous traffic along the South Luzon Expressway and major highways in this city yesterday. The first collision occurred at about 5:30 a.m. between a Manila-bound passenger bus and a Batangas-bound 10-wheel cargo truck in Barangay Turbina here. At about 11:30 a.m. another accident, which involved four light vehicles, occurred some four kilometers from the first smash-up. No serious injury was reported from the accidents.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dialysis machines

TAYABAS, Quezon—President Macapagal-Arroyo formally received on Wednesday a donation of 10 dialysis machines from the Canadian government, represented by Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, during the 9th General Assembly of the Quezon Federation of Barangay Health Workers here. She also distributed coconut seedlings as part of the government effort to upgrade the country's coconut varieties.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drowned man found

CALATAGAN, Batangas—The decomposing body of a man was fished out from the sea in Barangay Pagaspas Bay 3, this town, about 7:30 a.m. on Thursday. The still unidentified body, which was seen drifting at sea about 20 meters from the shore in front of the Hacienda Balabatican, was in his middle 30s, medium built and wearing a striped polo shirt, black leather belt and denim shorts. He had tattoo marks of a galleon with the word "Homeward" on top of his lower left arm and a turtle in his lower right arm. Autopsy reports said the man died of drowning. The corpse was buried at the Calatagan Municipal Cemetery. *Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gang men arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested the leader and a member of the Sorsogon-based Maurag gang in Barangay Sampaloc, Sorsogon City during a buy-bust operation about 11 p.m. Wednesday. Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director, identified the gang leader as Romeo Lareza alias Maurag and his man as Carlos Deuda alias Barl. Seized from the two were two rectangular heat-sealed plastic sachets of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and marked P500-bills. Police are preparing to file drug charges against the two.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JUDGE'S MURDER

Cops eye guns-for-hire in slay

DAVAO CITY—The assassins of Compostela Valley Judge Eugenio Valles could be guns-for-hire but as to who contracted them remains uncertain.

But Supt. Jaime Morente, Compostela Valley police chief, said they are now following "good leads," boosted by the police artist's sketch of the alleged triggerman.

Although the triggerman wore a helmet at the time of the killing on Thursday morning, Morente said the witnesses providing his description was positive of the identity.

Days before Valles was gunned down, a man riding the same motorcycle used by the assassins, were repeatedly seen near the judge's boarding house in Nabunturan, Compostela Valley.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Southern Mindanao police director, said witnesses also told investigators that a suspicious-looking man was even asking Valles' neighbors about his whereabouts.

Matillano said aside from hired killers, police are also looking into the involvement of New People's Army guerrillas in the magistrate's death.

"The *modus operandi* was typical of the Sparrow," Matillano told radio station dxRP here.

Valles was jogging in Purok 7, Barangay Sta. Maria in Nabunturan town around 5:15 on Thursday morning, when two suspects riding a green TMX motorcycle blocked his path.

One of the men drew out a .45 cal. pistol and shot him at close range. He died of five bullet wounds in the head.

Valles handled the controversial case filed by small-scale miners in Mt. Diwalwal against Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes.

The small-scale miners sought an injunction against Brillantes' order to close their operations. Valles rejected the miners' appeal.

As this developed, Matillano said he formed a task force to establish the real motive behind the judge's slay.

A POLICE artist's sketch of the gunman.

He said the task force would also look into reports about the possible involvement of Mt. Diwata barangay captain and miner Franco Tito in the murder.

He said Tito declared last week that there would be a bloodbath in the gold rush area. Police are evaluating if this statement had anything to do with the judge's murder.

Tito has denied the reports and vowed to cooperate with investigators.

As police are still trying to determine the motive for the killing, the Free Legal Assistance Group and Integrated Bar of the Philippines said Valles death was an affront to the independence of the judiciary.

"FLAG views his murder as another assault on the independence of the judiciary. FLAG calls on the Philippine government to immediately investigate his murder and to bring his perpetrators before the bar of justice," said a statement from the lawyers' group.

To speed up the solution of the case, a private group in Compostela Valley raised a P100,000 bounty for the arrest of the suspects and masterminds in the killing. ***Anthony Allada and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

BEN MOSES EBREO

BIG FISH
A fisherman in Maconacon, Isabela, holds up his day's prize catch.

Farmers find new hope in cassava

FARMERS in Pagadian City and several towns in Zamboanga del Sur, encouraged by improved marketing prospects, are replanting cassava as an alternative cash crop.

The farmers have formed cooperatives as cassava producers and sellers with the support of the provincial government of Zamboanga del Sur and technical assistance from the Department of Agriculture, according to a news release.

The Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor) provided funds for the cooperatives.

The farmers have found a reliable buyer in San Miguel Corp. which has assured them of an attractive minimum floor price.

The farmers' groups, the Mt. Malindang Multi-Purpose Planters Cooperative and the Baganlan Peninsula Multi-Purpose Planters Cooperative, have already started several demonstration farms that they expect will soon establish them as producers and sellers of such products as cassava chips and powder and corn grains.

Initially, some 2,500 hectares of farms were identified for the project. These are located in Pagadian City, Labangana, Tukuran, Aurora, R. Magsaysay, Sominot, Midsalip, Domingag, Josefina, Mahayag, Molave, Dumalinao, Guipos, San Pablo, Tigbao, Lakewood, Kumalarang, Bayog, Dinas, Dimataling, Pitogo, Tabina, Margosatubig, V. Sagun, and San Miguel, all in Zamboanga del Sur.

Arraignment of ex-mayor for poll slaying postponed

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

GUIMBAL, Iloilo—The arraignment of former Mayor Sebastian Serag of San Joaquin town and 15 others on Thursday was postponed when defense lawyers failed to show up.

The four lawyers of the 16 accused in the murder of former San Joaquin town Mayor Jesus Sibya Jr. and the attempted murder of his driver, Norberto Salamat III, did not appear in court, prompting Judge Danilo Galvez of the Iloilo Regional Trial Court Branch 67 to move the arraignment to May 21.

Almost all of the accused, including Serag, appeared in court at Guimbal town, 29 kilometers south of the capital Iloilo City.

Serag, like many of his co-accused, donned his tangerine prison garb but used a red bandana to hide his handcuffs and his face from the cameras.

San Joaquin Vice Mayor Marilyn Silfavan, also Serag's co-accused who is out on bail, arrived 15 minutes after the court had adjourned. She said she was late because she was the acting mayor and had many things to attend to.

Lawyers who did not show up for the arraignment were Cornelio Panes, Guillermo Alcantara, Igmedio Prado and Angelo Aninao.

Assistant Prosecutor Globert Justalero said Panes had asked for the postponement of the arraignment.

"The lawyers were duly notified but, except for Panes, there was no explanation for their absence," he said.

Panes is counsel for accused Jose Oliver Segumalina, Thomix Segumalian, Vicente de la Cruz, Teoduro de la Cruz, Abraham de la Cruz, Eleazar Sañol, Roque Sanmillian, Nemesio Panugot and Edgar Sta. Cruz.

Alcantara is the lawyer of accused Juan Napao, Marcelino Napao and Noel Napao, who are all at large. Prado's clients are Silfavan and Rodolfo Talanquines.

Aninao represents Serag and Balabago Barangay Chief Lino Napao.

Sibya was killed in a dawn shooting in his home and campaign headquarters three days before the May 14, 2001 elections. Serag and Napao surrendered hours after the shooting.

Serag lost his reelection bid to Ma. Daisy Sibya, the widow of Jesus, who took over her husband's candidacy, a day before the elections.

Mayor Sibya said that she wants the trial to proceed smoothly and without delay. "We should start the hearing so that we could all move on," she said.

Police jail, charge vice mayor, 7 others with drug use

TACLOBAN CITY—The police's City Anti-Narcotics Office (Cano) on Tuesday filed criminal charges against a vice mayor of an eastern town and seven others after policemen allegedly caught them holding separate pot sessions on Monday night.

Vice Mayor Almar Balais of San Miguel was charged with illegal possession of prohibite. Drugs before the Tacloban City Prosecutor's Office.

Also charged were William Canaya, Santiago Keirulf, Antonio Nasarondo, Ricky Martinez, Danilo Ballon, Janet Muertigue and a 17-year-old girl.

Canaya and Keirulf were neighbors and owners of the houses in Barangay 77, which were raided by two separate teams from the anti-narcotics unit on Monday night.

They were also charged with illegal possession of firearms. The policemen allegedly found a .38 cal. revolver beside Canaya during the raid. Two firearms were allegedly recovered from Keirulf during the raid.

The eight suspects are still detained at the city police station. As of Wednesday, only Balais filed a petition to post bail before Regional Trial Court Judge Salvador Apurillo of Branch 8. The judge has yet to decide on the petition.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Balais but he and his family refused to be interviewed. His wife and a daughter had been at the city police station since Monday when Balais was arrested.

The Cano operatives swooped down on the houses of Canaya and Keirulf on Monday. The two had been under surveillance for two months after the Cano received a tip that their houses were being used as venues for pot sessions, said Insp. Rene Antillon of the Cano.

According to the complaint, the police team allegedly caught Balais, Canaya, Nasarondo, Martinez, Ballon and the 17-year-old girl holding pot sessions inside Canaya's house.

The complaint said the arresting team allegedly found three grams of shabu and 1.4 grams of dried marijuana leaves from Balais' group.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

'Judicial terror' in Bulacan assailed

SENATOR Blas Ople yesterday denounced what he said was "judicial terror" in his home province of Bulacan and urged the Supreme Court to investigate reports that the Lakas administration systematically recruits biased judges to overthrow popular verdict in the elections.

In a letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Ople said the Lakas party machinery, based in Malacañang, in cahoots, with a biased judge in Malolos, was trying to oust duly elected mayor Rolando Salvador of Baliuag, in favor of the losing Lakas candaidate, Romeo Estrella.

Ople also said that the Estrella camp had boasted of a P50 million war chest to finance a reversal of the popular will in Baliuag.

Ople, in a statement, also said top government officials were involved in "judicial manipulation to overturn the results of the last elections."

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and Rep. Willie Villarama of the second district of Bulacan have crossed party lines to back up Salvador.

Senator offers help in surrender of cult leader

BUTUAN CITY—Sen. Robert Barbers said he would convince his political ally Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo to voluntarily surrender her son, parricide suspect and ex-San Jose town mayor Ruben Ecleo Jr.

Barbers made the statement after a court on Wednesday issued a warrant for Ecleo Jr.'s arrest.

"If there's already a warrant of arrest, I will convince his mother to surrender him," Barbers told reporters here yesterday.

A regional trial court in Cebu had already issued a warrant for the young Ecleo's and his three bodyguards' arrest for the murder of Ecleo Jr.'s wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, whose decomposing body was found dumped in a ravine in the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete on Jan. 8.

No bail was recommended for the accused.

Ecleo Jr. is head of the anti-communist cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association Inc. (PBMA) based in San Jose, Surigao del Norte. The PBMA claims it has more than 3 million members and over 400 chapters around the country.

Ecleo Jr. (Lakas) served as town mayor of San Jose from 1992 to 1995. He lost the gubernatorial race to Francisco Matugas in 1995.

He is the eldest son of Representative Ecleo and PMBA founder Ruben Ecleo Sr.

Barbers also said he would immediately bring his political ally to authorities if he convinces him to surrender.

"If he surrenders to me, I will bring him to the authorities right away," Barbers said.

Representative Ecleo earlier told a local radio station in Surigao City that she would voluntarily hand over her son to authorities if a warrant of arrest is issued against him.

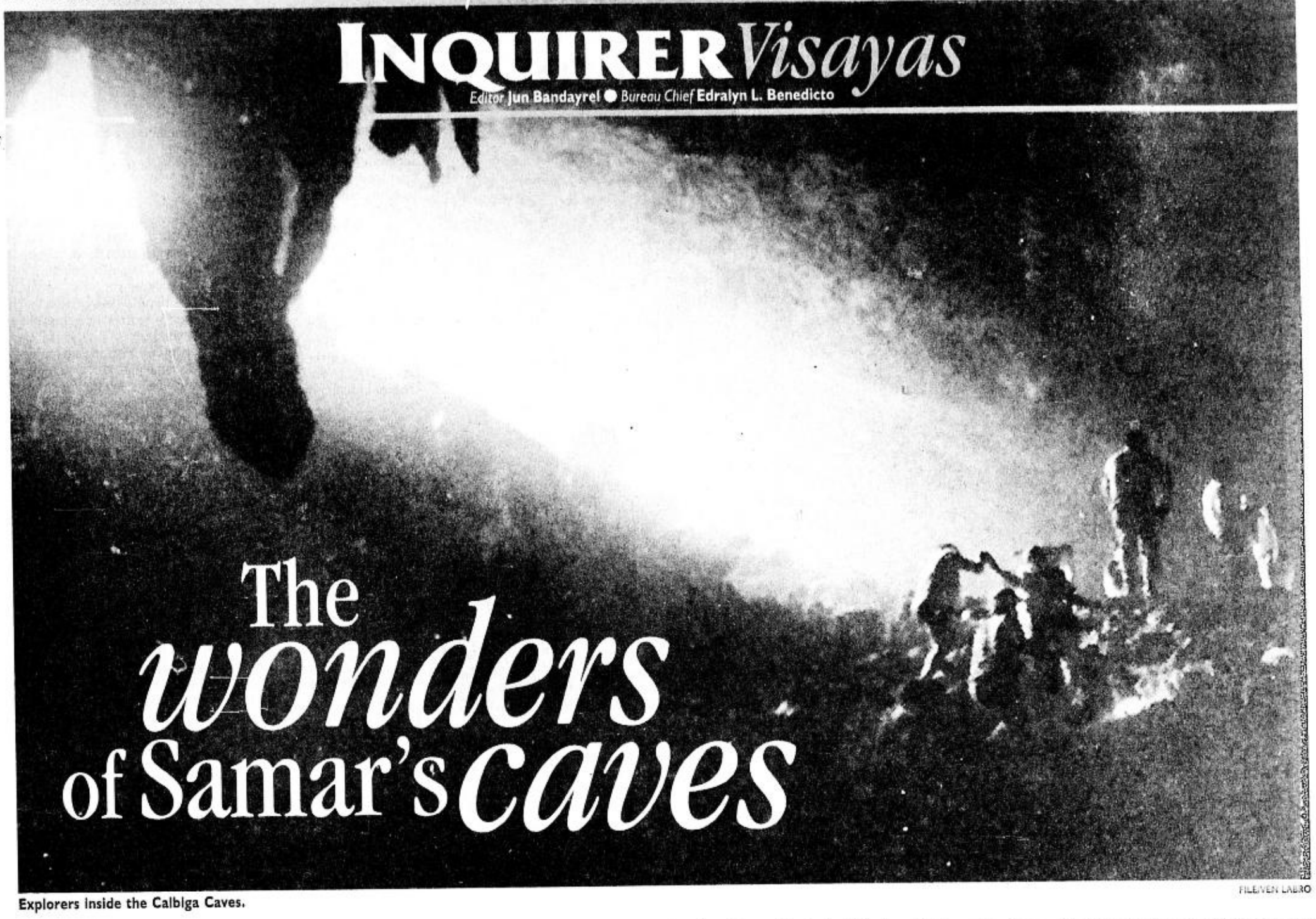
Insp. Vimmelle Madrid, spokesperson of the Caraga regional police command, said Representative Ecleo has assured them that she will turn over her son.

Madrid said the court has ordered Supt. Pedro Talosig, Surigao del Norte police chief, to accompany the arresting officers from Cebu in serving the warrant.

But Madrid expressed concern over the possible outbreak of violence amid resistance from Ecleo's followers.

"We can't control the supporters," Madrid said. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ● Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto



The wonders of Samar's caves

FILE/VEN LABRO

Explorers inside the Calbiga Caves.

By Vicente S. Labro
Catbalogan, Samar

SAMAR, the country's third largest island, boasts of dazzling waterfalls, great rivers, lush forests, diverse wildlife, exotic marine life, fine beaches and resplendent seascapes that nature lovers visiting the place couldn't ask for more.

This summer, the island's caves again dare the intrepid adventurers to venture into the darkness of their bellies and savor the sight of stunning formations in the ceiling, ground and walls of the subterranean passages.

The formations include stalactites and stalagmites, flow stones or sheet-like layered deposits on the floor or wall, and columns.

There are also the cave flowers, cave pearls, concretions, draperies, curtains, helictites and rimstones.

Early people used some of the caves as dwelling or burial places. Thus, artifacts dating to as far back as the Stone Age were found there.

Caves are known to be the habitat of bats, but inside the biggest cave of the island, colorless fish are also found.

A number of caves are known to be the favorite destinations of black magic practitioners like the *tambalan* (faith healer) and *paragbarang* (sorcerer) who visit on Good Friday to renew their powers.

It is believed that many caves in Samar are still unknown or unexplored. The latest "discovery" is a cave in Eastern Samar, which happened in 1999 during the Elf Authentic Adventure race across the island.

The virgin cave is along the Suribao River and just a few kilometers from the capital town of Borongan. It is locally known as the Canyawa Cave (Devil's Cave).

A team of French speleologists explored the cave from March to April 26.

Several other caves have been luring not only spelunkers but also curious but courageous locals and their guides, especially during the summer.

Calbiga

Among the popular sites is the Calbiga, which is composed of 12 caves, the biggest of which are Langun and Gobingob. The 2,968-hectare cave network is the country's biggest karst formation and one of the largest in East Asia, according to Italian speleologists who surveyed the cave in 1987.

Located six kilometers from the town proper of Calbiga, 52 km southeast of Samar's capital town of Catbalogan, it boasts of wide underground spaces, unique rock formations, subterranean watercourse and unique cave fauna.

It is topped by vast lush forests inhabited by different fauna and flora.

Langun Cave, according to the Italian experts, has a gallery that is 100 meters wide and 110 meters high, and stretches for about a kilometer. The galleries found farther deep have an average width of 40 meters and a height of at least 15 meters.

The route leads to the majestic Panayuran Chamber, which, the speleologists said, could easily accommodate four football fields. The place boasts of huge, sparkling stalactites and stalagmites, and other unique formations like draperies and flowstones.

The Calbiga cave network is so big that several foreign participants in the 1999 adventure race reportedly got lost inside for more than a day.

Then President Fidel V. Ramos declared the caves a protected landscape area, not only because of their physical features but also of their unique bio-diversity.

The caves are the habitat of rare and endanger species, according to Corazon Makabenta, chief of the protected areas and wildlife division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office based in Tacloban City.

Sohoton

Another popular site for exploration is the Sohoton Caves, found inside the 840-hectare Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park in Basey, Samar, about 120 km south of Catbalogan.

Basey is also a 45-minute drive from Tacloban. The park can be reached in two hours by motorboat through a winding river.

Sohoton is a Waray word for a place where one has to pass through, like crouching through small crevices inside a cave or moving under a natural bridge in a banca.

The place was declared a national park on July 19, 1935 under Proclamation No. 831.

Although smaller compared to Calbiga, the Sohoton is also composed of several caves—the Panhulugan Cave I, Panhulugan Cave II and Sohoton, and the smaller Bugasan and Capitagan.

Panhulugan I boasts of unique, miniature rock formations, including those that look like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the world-famous Banaue Terraces, and the Loch Ness monster.

As its name implies, the cave has a natural bridge where a river flows underneath. Prehistoric artifacts had been found inside the area, showing that the early Samareños inhabited the place.

Panhulugan, a Waray word for a place where things are dropped, served as one of the hideouts of Filipino revolutionaries during the Philippine-American War.

Here, the early freedom fighters dropped tons of stones at passing American boats on patrol. Some American officers earned the Medal of Honor for having overrun the place.

As a national park, the Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park is under the protection of the National Integrated Protected Areas System said Makabenta.

Rawis

Between Basey and Sohoton lie two more beautiful caves. The Rawis, which was discovered just a few years ago, has glistening stalactites and stalagmites, and other rock formations.

Makabenta said the presence of cave pearls indicated that the place is still "pristine."

A few kilometers upstream of Barangay Rawis, a bat cave can be found near Barangay Inumtan.

In Calbayog City, about 80 km north of Catbalogan, the Guinogo-an Cave is a favorite of local spelunkers because of its subterranean passages that traverse from Oquendo District down to Malajog District.

Several caves are also found farther north, in the towns of Allen and Mapanas in Northern Samar.

Aside from the recent find, Eastern Samar has other caves like the Sta. Monica in Borongan, which reportedly has a river that runs three kilometers underground and where some artifacts had earlier been found.

Aguing

The Aguing Cave in Barangay Pagnamitinan, 6 km from the town proper of Guiuan, contains the skeletal remains of prehispanic settlers. These bones are mostly elongated, suggesting that the place was once inhabited by "giants."

Caves, however, lure people not because they provide traces of the past but because they give thrill to those with brave hearts who are not afraid of the dark.

But visitors should remember that the caves are protected under Republic Act No. 9072, which prohibits the destruction or disturbance of natural deposits inside any cave.

The law also forbids altering the free movement of any animal or plant life into or out of any cave. It punishes those who gather, collect, consume, sell, exchange or offer for sale without any authority, any cave resource as well as those who solicit or employ others to violate any of the prohibited acts.

Violators face a jail term of two to six years and a fine of P20,000 to P500,000. Those who just hired people to do the "dirty job" of collecting cave resources face more severe penalties.

RA 9072 also penalizes any "person furnishing the capital to accomplish the act punishable" with imprisonment of six to eight years and a fine of P500,000 to P1 million.

So before embarking on a cave exploration, visitors should always remember the maxim by which nature lovers live by: "Take nothing but a photograph; leave nothing but footprints."

A quota for women

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste has scored a first in introducing a bill titled "Providing for Women Empowerment." It will probably take a snail's pace, but it is there.

The bill aims to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of public service by reserving a certain percentage of positions to women.

Expect opposition from those who think it is unconstitutional, using the class legislation argument. That is the usual argument of those who do not understand that affirmative action is needed to level the playing field for women and men.

We can't make women compete under the same rules as men. Women are barred from genuine political participation or have difficulty getting into decision-making positions in government because they are at a disadvantage, economically, socially, and culturally. The bureaucracy and political parties are male-dominated ever since their creation by men in power.

To change the tide in favor of women, drastic interventions in law and policy are required.

One does not even have to look at the statistics to know that there are fewer women in the legislative, executive and judiciary.

There are only 287 trial judges out of 1,514 positions. In the Supreme Court, only two of the 15 justices are women; in the Court of Appeals, 13 out of 51; in the Sandiganbayan, three out of 15. And no one can say there aren't enough qualified women who are in law practice or who are in government posts now and deserve to be promoted.

In the Cabinet, there are only four secretaries out of 24. We have only 38 congresswomen out of 214 and only three women senators out of 24. Out of the 74 governors, only 14 are women, There are only 19 women city mayors out of 113, and 113 women municipal mayors out of 1,522.

The "empowerment bill" aims to cure this inequity by reserving at least one third of public positions for women, and at least 30 percent of all items in each rank for women in the Philippine National Police.

The United Nations has estimated that a critical mass can be reached if women get at least 30 percent of positions.

Among other provisions, the bill reserves to qualified women at least one-third of the Cabinet, assistant secretaries, directors, division chiefs, ambassadors and consuls, judges in all lower courts, and prosecutors.

Senator Legarda and co-author Sergio Osmeña III deserve credit for shaking the status quo, but they avoid controversial issues. They restrain from getting the ire of politicians from whom they get votes by requiring political parties to reserve at least one-third of official candidates to women in elections for the municipal and city councils and provincial boards only.

Requiring political parties to have a quota for women is an uphill climb. The experiences of other countries that have a party quota for women or both sexes show that it is better when political parties have their quota voluntarily and not legislated.

Elizabeth Cunanan Angsioco, chairperson of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines, presented a paper on the "Women's Political Participation and the Quota System" in a forum two weeks ago. She wrote that 15 out of 27 countries with most women in political structures have quota systems.

Sweden has a 50-percent voluntary quota for all candidates' lists, and has 43 percent women members in parliament and 31 percent in ministerial and subministerial offices. Denmark has a 40-percent quota and 37-percent women members in parliament.

China has 22-percent women members in parliament but has no quota policy. However, women have long been active in China's communist party.

Generally, the quota for women results in a satisfactory percentage of women in parliament, or more than 30 percent. Angsioco showed data indicating that in countries with most women in political structures, women have a higher life expectancy compared to men, higher than the world average of 69 years.

Nineteen of the top 20 countries have policies on abortion based on health or socioeconomic grounds, physical or mental health, or in cases of rape or incest.

The quota system is a strategy to hasten putting women in decision-making positions. But Angsioco admits that it is not the only way to reach the goal of having pro-women policies. Even with the quota system, there is still the problem of the quality of women who will have political power.

Against a political culture, which is male, traditional and elitist, the struggle for women to change our culture of politics is very difficult. And even when women in politics reach a critical mass there is still the problem of having to change the rules of the game, which men have for so long dominated.

Then there is the problem of what kind of women can win elections in this country. They have to be rich, come from political families or be popular because of their media exposure.

The ideal situation of having women in politics, who come from a broad range in terms of class and sectors, will take many more years to achieve. Still, Angsioco agrees that having women in positions of power is still better than having men. It is generally easier to talk to women than men about women's issues.

It took Denmark a hundred years. We can start with Legarda's bill and women's group can continue their work in educating and organizing women.

Victories are not won overnight. So for the sake of the future generations of Filipino women, sometimes we have to settle for small victories. But don't stop there.

Copa to seek ceasefire on row with Palace

From page A1

draft will then be presented to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for approval.

Saycon said his group would expect the cardinal to issue his decision in two weeks, after which Freedom Force would release the manifesto to the public.

Limcaoco

But before then, Saycon said, the Copa would ask the President to "act" on Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco's leak of the junta story to the INQUIRER.

"If Dodi did it by himself, he should be answerable for it," Saycon said. "If someone told him to do it, then he must expose (the person)."

Saycon said that by leaking the story, an "insecure" Malacañang intended to crush the Copa's "potent organization," which had been closely watching the affairs and programs of the administration.

Saycon said Benigno had called for the meeting with him, Joan Orendain, and Copa members Boy Montelibano, Patricia Sison and Dave Arsenas to discuss Freedom Force's course of action in the face of allegations that it was plotting to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo and install a junta.

He said it was agreed during the meeting that the group would seek an apology from the INQUIRER for erroneously attributing a statement to Bishop Socrates Villegas about the supposed junta being espoused by Freedom Force.

The INQUIRER had apologized to Villegas for the error.

"We also want (an apology) because we were the recipient of the bad publicity," Saycon told the INQUIRER.

Middle forces

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable disputed the claim of Freedom Force movers Benigno, Saycon and Jose Cojuangco Jr. that the government's stability was under threat.

Afable said it would be easy to monitor any unrest among the "middle forces" through text messages.

He recalled how, during the days leading to People Power II, "tens of millions" of text messages were monitored "going back and forth."

"This is the sign of the middle forces' unrest," he said. "Now, I don't think anybody can say that we are in the midst of a revolution by the middle forces."

Afable said text messages were a reliable gauge of the public "temper" because texting had become the mode of communication of the middle class, especially the younger generation.

"The middle force revolt that they say happened at Edsa II (was spurred by) text messaging. You would be able to monitor it and feel it," he said.

Afable said Benigno was just "creating a scenario in his mind" when he raised the specter of a takeover from the communist Left and the military Right.

"I disagree with him," Afable said.

He conceded that there were "rumblings" in the military. "But we have always encountered these," and these are not enough to conclude that there is a conspiracy within the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, he said.

Afable also said the communist movement had not brought about a revolutionary situation in the countryside.

"There is no basis to say that we are in the midst of a combined threat from the Left and the Right," he said. "There is no reason for the middle forces to rally to save the nation because the nation is not in danger."

Montayre

The People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) accused both Malacañang officials and Freedom Force advocates of using Cardinal Sin's credibility and clout to push their respective interests.

PCA secretary general Linda Montayre said these people might have "exploited" Sin's sickly condition to influence his actions. But she added: "I would like to believe in all candor that Cardinal Sin would not make this kind of a plot. Rather, he's being used because at this point he's not mobile, he's also sick."

She also said Sin's condition could have prevented him from going around and "checking" the veracity of things told him.

Saycon, Benigno et al. recently visited Sin ostensibly to apprise him of Freedom Force.

Benigno later wrote that Sin had given his blessings to Freedom Force. But in a letter to Benigno, Sin denied giving any support to the group.

It was Limcaoco who furnished the INQUIRER a copy of Sin's letter.

Montayre said that in his desire to butter up to the President, Limcaoco also used Sin to make much ado over Freedom Force.

"(but) why is it that Limcaoco is now saying that since the Copa denied plotting to unseat the President, 'that's all right, everything ends well?'" she said. "Is that how it's supposed to end. After making up this issue, after creating tension and making people jittery, he's now saying it's OK?"

She said that "if they raised a ghost, a monster, it should be clarified what that monster is."

Montayre theorized that either the Palace, in collusion with the Copa, raised the issue to test the people's reaction to a possible junta, or it was merely trying to draw public attention from the Labor Day protests or the increases in fuel, power and water rates.

She said they had received reports that a junta was the President's back-up plan should questions on the legitimacy of her administration gain momentum.

"The PCA is asking the Senate to investigate reports . . . that Saycon and (National Security Adviser Roilo) Golez are planning to launch a Palace or (in-house) coup with (the President) if the popularity of (the President) nosedives further and questions regarding her continued legitimacy escalate even more," the group said in a statement.

Moontayre said that despite the seeming conflict between them, Saycon remained one of the President's "trouble-shooters."

Rebuttals

Saycon's reaction to Montayre's statements was brief: "Her allegation needs psychiatric analysis. I think the media should not pick up this story anymore. The people don't deserve this kind of stories. We should stop the issue."

Golez's response went along the same line: "It's a mentally deranged concoction. It is similar to Montayre's earlier warning that 3,000 al-Qaida members will attack the Philippines."

He initially declined to comment directly on Montayre's claims, saying: "I do not react to sub-normal statements."

He also denied being associated with Saycon. He said he was simply acting as a "bridge" between Malacañang and the Copa.

"I'm a bridge here," Golez said. "I was just trouble-shooting problems that arose because of this Freedom Force issue." ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Carlito Pablo***

SAYCON: Freedom Force is only a concept, an inspiration.

Don't gripe in public, Reyes tells generals

From page A1

Certain retired and active generals have earlier divulged a growing discontent in the military supposedly because of the way things were being handled by the administration. Among the issues they cited was the selection of the next chief of staff.

Asked if the supposed discontent could lead to a coup attempt, Gidaya said: "I don't think so. I don't think so. We believe that our people in the military are disciplined enough."

At the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara urged the President to check the supposed discontent in the military.

"We should not fall back on the martial-law practice of extending the terms of generals and frustrating young and competent officers who cannot get promoted because of cronyism," he said, adding:

"If a hard line has to be adopted, this should be to stop extending the terms of generals past their retirement and the promotion of officers based on closeness to the political powers."

Cimatu

According to earlier reports, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu is being considered as the next AFP chief of staff after Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, who retires on May 20.

Cimatu, however, is himself retiring in July, and Malacañang is supposedly planning to extend his term by six months.

AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, who have seniority in their favor, are said to oppose the alleged extension plan.

Gidaya yesterday said that in the order of seniority, Camiling came first, followed by Defensor, Navy chief Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Cimatu and AFP deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

"If you pick somebody who is not the most senior and then you extend (his term), the others will not like it very much . . . That is the position of Agfo," Gidaya said.

But others have pointed out that Camiling was sacked as Southcom chief in connection with the escape of the Abu Sayyaf from a military cordon last year in Lamitan, Basilan.

From the Southcom, Camiling was transferred to the post of AFP vice chief of staff. Cimatu took his place.

The race for the top AFP post started the other month when various "white papers" were made available to defense reporters.

Some of the contenders have also started to make the rounds of media offices.

Yesterday, Camiling even released a photo of himself consulting with a seer.

Reform movements

Angara said it was the unprofessional state of military promotions during martial law that triggered the formation of reform movements within the AFP.

He said these movements produced the young and idealistic military officers who took part in People Power I, which toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

According to Angara, the administration should learn from history and not take favoritism in military promotions lightly.

He said the promotion of young and competent officers was the "iron-clad guarantee" for continued professionalism in the military.

The senator also said both the AFP and the Philippine National Police were being threatened by a "specter of leadership based on political and personal considerations," not on professionalism.

"The President should quell the restlessness and the growing disenchantment before it is too late," he said.

CBCP says 2 persons serving as liaison with Palace

By Armand Nocum and Carlito Pablo

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday said two persons were actually serving as liaison between Malacañang and the Church—Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco and Sonia Ronda.

"From the way we see it, there are two persons here. We still have to clarify their definite functions," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general.

Ronda used to head the Council of the Laity of the Philippines, which is affiliated with the CBCP's Philippine Episcopal Commission on the Laity.

Last year, she was among the papal awardees recognized for remarkable service to the Church and the Holy Father. She also landed in the news when Nicanor Tiongson, resigned chair of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board, cited her as one of the "moral terrorists" who spearheaded the ban on the movie "Live Show."

Coronel described Limcaoco, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, as "level-headed."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said that the President was satisfied with Limcaoco's performance so far, and that the Palace saw nothing wrong in his having leaked to the INQUIRER the report about an alleged junta plot.

Limcaoco is in the process of setting up a permanent office at the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang, and workers have started moving furniture into what was once the office of the Presidential News Desk.

Afable said the President would likely ignore the suggestion of former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco that she fire Limcaoco.

He also rejected suggestions that Limcaoco be sanctioned for the leak.

"I don't think we can fault him for that. So he is not subject to any sanctions," Afable said, adding that Limcaoco leaked the information "on his own."

Ople: Copa a club of job-seekers

From page A1

degenerated into "clubs of frustrated job-seekers, intriguers and mischief-makers."

In a press conference, the opposition senator said the Copa's call for "collective leadership" to replace President Macapagal-Arroyo was a thinly veiled attempt to get back at her for denying them government jobs that they did not deserve.

"I believe it is right and proper for the President to ignore this insignificant group of self-seeking lobbyists purporting to be her allies but are intriguing to undermine her administration and the political stability of the country," Ople said.

He commended Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for rejecting the Copa's call for collective leadership.

"These leaders of Copa exist only for one purpose: to perpetuate their claims to public office, which they believe they have earned through their nominal presence at Edsa II. The claims, to say the least, are spurious and highly debatable," Ople said.

He urged the Copa and others like it to disband and look for their own honest means of livelihood.

Gossip factory

Ople called for the closure of Metro Manila's "gossip factory," which, he said, was responsible for the recycling of coup rumors, including the latest involving the Copa and the so-called Freedom Force.

"Each time the President faces a historical commemoration, coup rumors fly to agitate the public and excite the media," he noted, and lauded Ms Macapagal for ignoring the rumors and sticking to her job.

Ople also called for sobriety in public discourse and for a stop to the reporting of "hallucinatory destabilization efforts" in the media.

"Stop the rumors. That story is old hat," he said.

Malacañang suspicious of FVR anew

From page A1

heaven's name was Cesar Sarino doing there? Why was a Ramos man present in that meeting?"

And he's not just a Ramos man. Sarino is also currently holding two positions in the Macapagal administration as presidential adviser for Southern Tagalong and chair of the Malacañang Heritage Museum.

During Ramos tenure, Sarino was the president of the Government Service Insurance System.

Further strain

The Malacañang official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Sarino's presence in the meeting of Freedom Force with the cardinal is further straining relations between Ms Macapagal and Ramos.

"We are asking this question about Sarino in the same way that we're asking why Badong Enriquez and his group had been hitting the President without let-up," the Palace source said.

He was referring to Salvador Enriquez Jr., former budget secretary during the Ramos administration, who is the leader of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA).

The PCA is a civil society group which had been accusing the Macapagal administration of several alleged irregularities, particularly graft and corruption, and most of its criticisms are aired by its secretary general, Linda Olaguer-Montayre. ***(Related story on Page A1).***

The Malacañang official noted that Ms Macapagal had previously tried to iron out differences with Ramos and that "the two of them had two to three meetings with only the two of them present."

"When the President raised the issue (to Ramos) about the PCA, Ramos called up Badong (Enriquez) on his mobile phone and told him while the President is listening to stop attacking the President," the source said. "The next day, the PCA would again hit the President."

Ramos is suspected of nursing a dream to make a political comeback although the 1987 Constitution bars ex-presidents from seeking reelection.

Ramos himself had previously pointed out that such a prohibition constitutes a "gray area" in the Charter but he has denied plans to seeking another term.

Almonte, too

The retired general who warned on Wednesday that about 20 active and retired generals are disgruntled with the Macapagal administration is closely linked to retired Brig. Gen. Jose Almonte, national security adviser of the Ramos administration.

Almonte and Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gutang, a former congressman and the executive director of the Association of General and Flag Officers, belong to Class 1956 of the Philippine Military Academy.

Almonte is one of Ramos' confidants.

Rose Porteous cleared of killing rich hubby

From page A1

Instead Hope said he found that Hancock died of natural causes, highlighting in his 285-page report that he had been an old man suffering from serious heart and kidney ailments at the time of his death.

The inquest was held after strenuous lobbying by Hancock's daughter, Gina Rinehart, who refused to accept police findings that there had been no foul play in her father's death.

Hancock died on March 27, 1992 in the guesthouse of Prix D'Amour, the Perth mansion he built for his maid-turned-wife. He was 82.

Rinehart reportedly spent millions gathering information until she finally convinced Hope to hold the inquest—a marathon 10-week hearing which ended in September.

During the hearing, Rinehart asked Hope to commit Rose to stand trial for willful murder.

But Hope, in his report, raised questions about the credibility of many witnesses who appeared at the inquest.

Rose is now married to prominent Perth real estate agent Willie Porteous.

Maryknoll graduate

Long before she became a Mrs. Hancock and later a Mrs. Porteous, she was Rosemarie Lacson, a product of Maryknoll College who became the wife of Julian Teodoro. She said Teodoro "kidnapped" her and forced her into a "shotgun marriage." She later married a Malaysian businessman.

Rose is a niece of the late Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson. ***With a report from AFP***

Revilla needs 2nd operation

By Leah Salterio

SEN. Ramon Revilla has to undergo a second spinal operation on Tuesday at the Stanford University Medical Center in California, after the screw of the titanium clamp attached to his upper spine snapped early this week.

Revilla went through a delicate spinal surgery on April 11 after doctors found torn ligaments and fissures in his upper spinal column.

The 75-year-old senator, a former movie star, went to the United States last Easter. He went for a check-up after suffering pain on his neck and upper back. He was with his son, Bong Revilla, Bong's wife Lani Mercado, daughter Evelyn Bautista-Jaworski and Sen. Robert Jaworski.

"When my dad had an MRI test, it showed that there was a damage on a portion of his upper spine," said Bong, who is also an actor.

He explained that a slight to moderate trauma in the affected spinal region could cause partial or total paralysis.

The younger Revilla returned to the country last Tuesday. He said his father has been recovering well and was wearing a neck brace after the operation.

"But we don't really know why that screw snapped," he said.

"He doesn't want to fly," Bong said. "After the operation, we also traveled by car to LA."

Bong, who had to return home because he had not taped enough episodes of his sitcom on GMA 7, said he would go to the US again next week with Senator Jaworski to check on his father.

Detained Indons plan to sue RP

JAKARTA—Two Indonesians who had been detained in the Philippines for more than a month on suspicion of terrorism returned home yesterday to a heroes welcome, vowing to sue the Philippine government.

Hundreds of waiting Muslim activists shouted "God is Great" and "Welcome Back, Our Heroes" as Tamsil Linrung and Abdul Jamal Balfas arrived at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta Airport.

Linrung, a former member of influential upper house speaker Amien Rais' National Mandate Party, said he planned to sue the Philippine government for "wrongful arrest and planting evidence."

Linrung, Balfas and their compatriot, Agus Dwirkana, were arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on their way to Bangkok on March 13, after explosives were allegedly found in Linrung's luggage.

"In the (Manila) court I pointed out the man who put the stuff into my bag," said Linrung.

The two were released after the Philippine government granted a request from Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri to set both free, Presidential Spokesperson Silvestre Afable said last Thursday.

Dwirkana, however, remains in detention. The Indonesian intelligence service has sought custody of Dwirkana but the Philippine justice department was still investigating him, Afable said. *AFP*

RCPI is the Western Union Asia-Pacific Agent of the Year for 2001*

* Awarded in Bali, Indonesia last March 26, 2002

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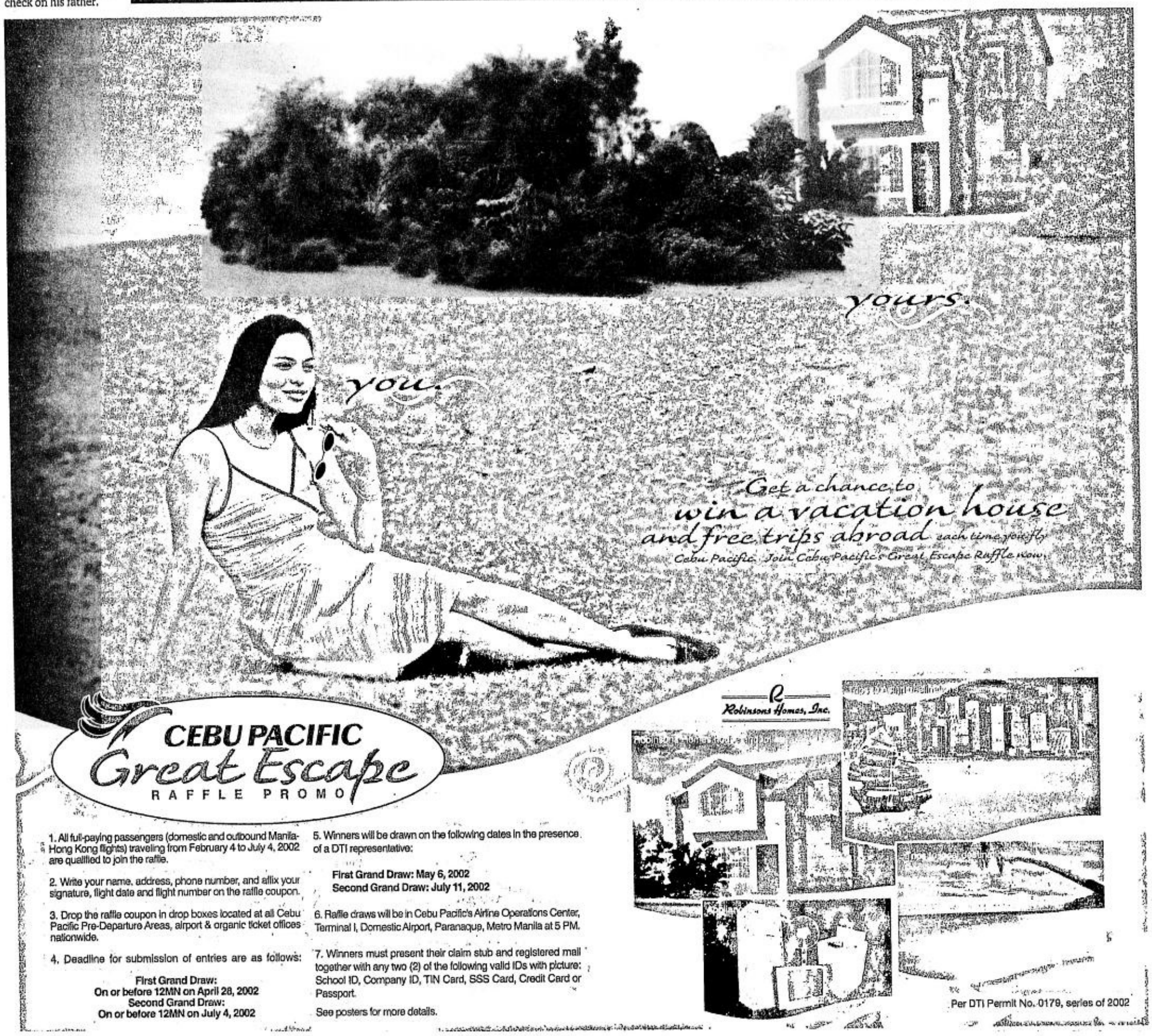

1. All full-paying passengers (domestic and outbound Manila-Hong Kong flights) traveling from February 4 to July 4, 2002 are qualified to join the raffle.

2. Write your name, address, phone number, and affix your signature, flight date and flight number on the raffle coupon.

3. Drop the raffle coupon in drop boxes located at all Cebu Pacific Pre-Departure Areas, airport & organic ticket offices nationwide.

4. Deadline for submission of entries are as follows:

First Grand Draw:
On or before 12MN on April 28, 2002
Second Grand Draw:
On or before 12MN on July 4, 2002

5. Winners will be drawn on the following dates in the presence of a DTI representative:

First Grand Draw: May 6, 2002
Second Grand Draw: July 11, 2002

6. Raffle draws will be in Cebu Pacific's Airline Operations Center, Terminal I, Domestic Airport, Paranaque, Metro Manila at 5 PM.

7. Winners must present their claim stub and registered mail together with any two (2) of the following valid IDs with picture: School ID, Company ID, TIN Card, SSS Card, Credit Card or Passport.

See posters for more details.

Per DTI Permit No. 0179, series of 2002

Big-serving Sampras triumphs

HOUSTON —Pete Sampras of the United States overpowered Argentina's Mariano Puerta with 16 aces, including four in succession, to close out a 6-4, 6-2 victory Thursday in the second round of the U.S. Men's Clay Courts Championships. Sampras advanced to a quarterfinal match against countryman seventh-seeded Todd Martin, a 7-6 (4), 6-3 winner over Russia's Nikolay Davbydenko. AP

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◉ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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Coke, Purefoods eye semis slots

REAVIS

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola
5:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA and Purefoods must impose themselves against separate quarterfinal rivals today if they expect a semifinal showdown in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup.

Capturing two of the four twice-to-beat slots after the regular wars, the Tigers and the TJ Hotdogs need to beat their opponents only once in order to arrange a best-of-five series in the next phase.

The Tigers have to do it against the seventh-seeded Sta. Lucia Realtors in the curtain-raiser at the Araneta Coliseum, while the Hotdogs will have to play tough later in the night against Batang Red Bull Thunder, which clinched the sixth quarterfinal berth.

Their previous meetings, however, favored the Realtors and the Thunder as they beat the Tigers and the Hotdogs, respectively, in the elimination round.

The Realtors squeezed past the Tigers, 87-86, last March 24, while the Thunder blasted the Hotdogs, 93-77, on April 20.

But the lineup of the Tigers has changed since then as rookie Rafi Reavis suits up for Coca-Cola after he failed to meet the expectations of the Asian Games-bound national team.

Also released from the PBA-spiked national team were Coca-Cola's Poch Juinio and Johnny Abarrientos.

Juinio was barred from donning the Coca-Cola jersey until next conference while Abarrientos is recuperating from a recurring knee injury.

Another thing going for the Tigers is the fact that the Realtors are winless in four quarterfinal appearances without the twice-to-beat advantage.

The Hotdogs, on the other hand, hardly possess any convincing advantage against the Thunder aside from their twice-to-beat edge.

In an effort to get past the Hotdogs, the Thunder brought in University of California's all-time leading scorer Sean Lampley, who will team up with Tony Lang after replacing Joe Bunn.

Lampley, a 22-year-old, 6-foot-7 slasher, is fresh from a stint with the Saskatchewan Hawks in the CBA where he placed third in the Rookie of the Year balloting last season.

Lampley averaged 16.2 points per game, 8.9 rebounds a night and shot 48 percent from the field in 20 games for the Hawks.

Ana zaps RP; Shark sparkles

By Dennis Eroa

HIGHLY charged Ana Freezers dumped RP Youth-Burlington, 108-73, yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Fifteen Freezer Kings, four of them in double figures, entered the scoreboard as coach Rudy Mendoza's charges bounced back after losing by 21 points, 65-86, against Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink last Wednesday.

The Freezer Kings picked up their fourth win in seven outings, while the inexperienced Nationals absorbed their fourth straight setback.

"The team isn't in the mood to allow easy baskets," Mendoza said. "We did not relax until the final buzzer."

In the second game, former Letran standout Ismael Junio shot a conference-high 37 points as Shark posted its first back-to-back win this conference by outgunning Blu Sun Power, 87-60.

Junio finished with nine triples (7 of 19), better than the eight triples recorded by Chowking's Alvin Magpantay (8-12) in 1995 and Tanduay's Jomer Rubi (8-21) in 1988. Shark, thus, tied Blu with 2-4 slates.

In the nightcap, Kutitap Toothpaste outlasted Montaña Jewels, 68-60, for its fifth win in six games. ***With a report from Emil Cabrera***

ANA FREEZERS 108—Oreta 15, Tubid 14, Laygo 14, Artadi 12, Pascual 8, Vilar 8, Mendoza 6, De Guzman 4, Mamaclay 4, Giron 4, Mendoza 4, Chaneco 3, Habelito 2, Sullano 2.

RP YOUTH 73-Fernandez 14, Nkmakolam 11, Tayer 9, Arao 8, Agbayani 7, Balboa 6, Gatchalian 6, Mendoza 3, Torculas 2, Astorga 2, Baldos 2, Dizon 2, Sumalinog 1, Cecilia 0,

Quarters: 26-9, 54-39, 82-50, 108-73.

Lakers, Celtics post 2-0 leads

LOS Angeles—Shaquille O'Neal had 31 points and 14 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant added 19 points despite a poor shooting performance as the Los Angeles Lakers held off the Portland Trail Blazers, 103-96, to take a 2-0 lead in the NBA first-round series.

The best-of-five matchup shifts to Portland for Game 3 on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

The win was the 18th in the last 19 playoff games for the Lakers, who are attempting to become the fifth team in NBA history to win three or more consecutive championships.

Bryant was 5-of-21 from the field and missed his last nine shots for the Lakers, who finished with a 48-35 rebound advantage.

The Lakers led 96-76 after two free throws by O'Neal with 5:09 left, but the Blazers went on a 16-2 run to draw within six points with 1:43 remaining.

Celtics 93, Sixers 85

In Boston, Paul Pierce grabbed 25 points and 10 rebounds, hitting the go-ahead 3-pointer in the final 1:36 Thursday, to lead the Boston Celtics to a 93-85 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers and send the defending Eastern Conference champions to the brink of elimination.

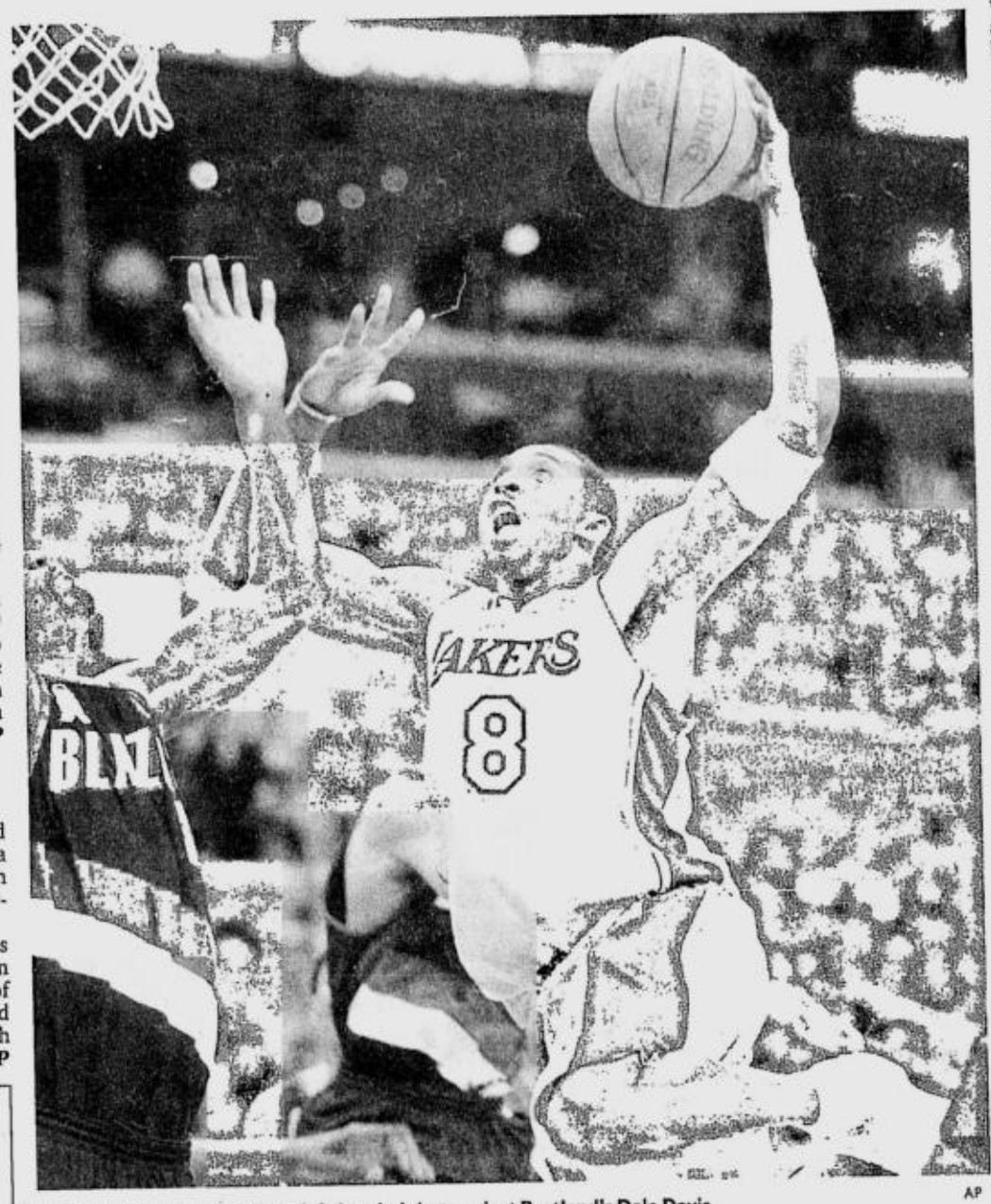
The Celtics took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series despite 29 points from Allan Iverson, who missed the final 14 games of the regular season and struggled in the playoff opener. Game 3 is in Philadelphia on Sunday. AP

O'Neal voted most improved

INDIANAPOLIS—When Indiana forward Jermaine O'Neal gazed at his NBA Most Improved Player award, he was already thinking of another piece of hardware he'd like to add to his newly constructed trophy case–that of MVP.

The 6-foot-11 (2.1-meter) O'Neal, who had career highs in points and rebounds this season for the Pacers, was selected Thursday as the NBA's most improved player. He is the first Indiana player to win the award since Jalen Rose, now with Chicago, in 1999-00.

O'Neal received 52 of 126 votes from a media panel. Detroit's Ben Wallace, the defensive player of the year, was second with 16 and Dallas' Steve Nash was third with nine. AP



BRYANT (right) goes up for a left-handed shot against Portland's Dale Davis. AP

Homecourt edge

NBA NOTES
Henry Liao

HOMECOOKING in the NBA playoffs is a significant factor. The numbers say so.

On a game-by-game basis, there have been a total of 2,521 playoff games in NBA history going into this year's competitions. In those games the home team has been victorious 1,674 times for a .664 success rate. A year ago, the teams with the "light" uniforms owned a 41-30 (.577) edge.

Since the NBA employed a 16-team postseason format in 1984, the team with the homecourt advantage won 220 of 285 playoff series, including an 11-4 mark in 2001, for a .772 winning clip.

Likewise, those teams with the homecourt advantage in the first-round, best-of-five series have triumphed 106 times while losing only 38, a winning percentage of .736. Last year, five of the eight clubs with the HA secured their first-round playoff duels.

Upsets do happen but more often, they come from the lower brackets. In the last 18 years, only twice has a No. 1 seed (the club with the best record in a conference) been beaten by a No. 8 seed (the team with the worst record in a conference) in first-round action. In 1999, New York shot down No. 1 East seed Miami 3-2 and went on to advance to the NBA Finals where the Knicks were ambushed by the San Antonio Spurs in five games. In 1994, Seattle, the team with the best regular record in the NBA and Western Conference, was trounced by Denver 3-2 after holding a 2-0 advantage.

The No. 1 seeds are 34-2 in series play versus No. 8 seeds since the 16-team playoff scheme was instituted in 1984. The second-seeded teams (or the other division winner in a conference) are 32-4 against the seventh-seeded clubs. In the No. 3 vs No. 6 matchups, it's 26-10 in favor of the third-seeded teams.

It's only the No. 4 vs No. 5 clashes that are off-chart, with the fifth-place teams owning a 22-14 advantage.

Que captures Manila Am

By Jong Arcano

ANGELO Que wants his final amateur season as memorable as it can be. And for the next 10 eight months or so, his rivals will have to bear with his appetite for winning.

A flurry of four birdies from the the fourth hole cleared the way for a leisurely trek to victory for Que as he crowned himself the inaugural Manila Amateur golf championship yesterday with yet another masterful handling of Wack Wack's west course.

"I'm counting the days (as an amateur) already so I need to make the most of chances that come my way," said Que, who fired a third straight sub-70 score of 69 to win by six strokes over club bet Marlon Dizon with his best-ever 72 hole performance of 11-under-par 277.

Que, who also matched the course record of 67 in the third round on Thursday, completed a sweep of major amateur events played at Wack Wack after having successfully defended the Philippine Open's low amateur crown last month.

Up next for Que's farewell march is the Philippine amateur next month where he will gun for a record-equalling grand slam feat.

Dizon, winner of the national stroke play title, came to within three strokes of Que after birdies on the second and third holes. But that proved to be his last stand as Que dropped the four-birdie bomb he never got to answer.

Dizon had long thrown the towel when Que made a spectacular birdie from no shorter than 60 feet on the 13th hole. Que was still in the hunt for the record when he banged in a 16-footer on the 15th to go four under but he hit his approach on the 16th into the bunker and made bogey.

Popular golf chain Pacsports organized the tourney with the support of Northwest Airlines, Bridgestone/Tourstage, Cleveland, Hogan Edge, Adams, Never Compromise, Ogio, Kasco, Greg Norman Play Dry shirts, Discovery Suites and Le Soleil-Boracay.

Que said that the support of his family and friends like Bob Sobrepeña of Southwoods, KZG's Francis Go, Wilson's Junjun Plana, Southpoint's Bong Lopez and Philip Tan inspires him to always go for glory.

QUE kisses his trophy as Nick Tuason (right) and Bones Floro look on. ROMY HOMILLADA

GS nears stretch

BASEY, Samar—The sparkling silver Nissan Exalta GS Superio set the roads of Samar province on fire with another round of intense driving, hiking the Caltex Havoline odometer reading to 21,303 kilometers going into the homestretch of the month-long island-hopping fourth Pan Philippine Marathon.

Juvy Catajoy was on the forefront of the Thursday group's assault of this historic province famous for its *banig* and the historic bells of Balangiga: Providing Catajoy company in another grueling tour of the countryside were Ike Borja, Lester Susi and Denny Riel.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 8 a.m. (r –4 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA Playoffs, First Round – New Jersey vs Indiana, Game 3 at 8:30 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m.) on Star Sports and Charlotte vs Orlando, Game 3 tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN
NBA Action at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA Anthology - '87 Los Angeles Lakers (Drive For Five) at midnight (r) on ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Anthony Balan fired a three-over-par 75 to rule the Class A title of the RPGA-Nissan national junior golf championship at the Capitol Hills golf course. Also today in 1990, Fidel Repizo set a 46.96 distance in the discus throw to break his own 46.50 national mark in the 1990 National Open track and field championship at the Rizal Memorial Oval.

SWIMMING CLINIC
An instructor from the Professional Swimming Coaches Academy of the Philippines teaches young dependents of the Orchard Golf and Country Club important basics under the "Learn to Swim Program." Swim packages are on offer the whole of summer at the Orchard culminating in a competition. Also being held at the Orchard are lessons in tennis (Rock N Roll Camp) and golf

Ocampo sustains Jungolf Open streak

CARL Santos Ocampo sustained his winning streak by winning the Class B crown in the Tat Filipinas Jungolf Open, the fourth leg of the annual summer circuit of the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines in San Pedro, Laguna.

Santos Ocampo, fresh from a big victory last week at Sherwood Hills, tallied a 228 to beat IG Gutierrez by three strokes with Justin Tambunting and Ian Ray Intal sharing third place at 234.

The three shoo-in bets to the Junior World championships in San Diego, California—Dottie Ardina (girls Class E), Mia Piccio (girls Class D) and Miko Yee (boys Class C)—also stayed unbeaten in their respective divisions.

Also winning in the tourney backed by Adidas Taylor Made were Lee Seong Ki in boys Class A, Jobim Carlos in boys Class D and JR Gonzales in boys Class E.

The results:

Class A: Boys (229 lee Seong Ki, V. Tan, GT Laguatan, Ki prevailed in a sudden-death playoff 232 A. Valbuena, 237 M. Mediana)

Class B: boys (227 C. Santos Ocampo, 231 IG Gutierrez, 234 J. Tambunting, I. Intal, 235 L. Negrido)

Class C: Boys (227 M. Yee, 232 M. Camitoc, 236 M. Ochoa, 249 JK Abdon, 250 A Eustaquio)

Class D: Boys (189 J. Carlos, 193 WJ Superal, 197 J. Uy, 204 RG Medestomas, 206 S. Limandibrata) Girls (196 M. Piccio, 205 MC Esconde, 212 C. Rodriguez)

Class E: Boys (165 JR Gonzales, 177 M. Tabuena, 179 M. Limandibrata, 187 JP de Claro, 191 JC Ricohermoso) girls (172 D. Ardina, 187 C. Potenciano, 243 A. Legaspi)

RCPI prevails; 4 games today

GAMES TODAY
Mindanao Polytechnic Gym
3 p.m.—Negros vs Davao
6 p.m.—Batangas vs Cagayan
CEU Centrodome, Malolos
1 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Olongapo
3:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Pampanga

By Roy Luarca

RCPI NEGROS survived Casino Cagayan de Oro's fiery challenge to prevail, 84-83, Thursday night and grab the solo lead in the MBA First Conference at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym.

Drawing the points from acquisitions Tyrone Bautista and Jose Francisco, the Slashers rallied from 13 points down and then silenced the Amigos' offense in the last minute to tally their fifth win in six starts and close in on a semifinal berth in the Southern Conference.

The Amigos, on the other hand, virtually bowed out of contention as they would need to sweep their last three games and hope that the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems (4-1) drop theirs to land at second place.

Bautista, formerly of LBC Batangas, scored a game-high 21 points while Francisco added 16 as they made up for the eight-point output of main man John Ferriols.

The Amigos actually had chances to reverse the outcome, but Peter Naron missed on two drives and the Slashers ran down the clock.

Today's schedule marks the first time in local professional basketball that four games would be held in two venues.

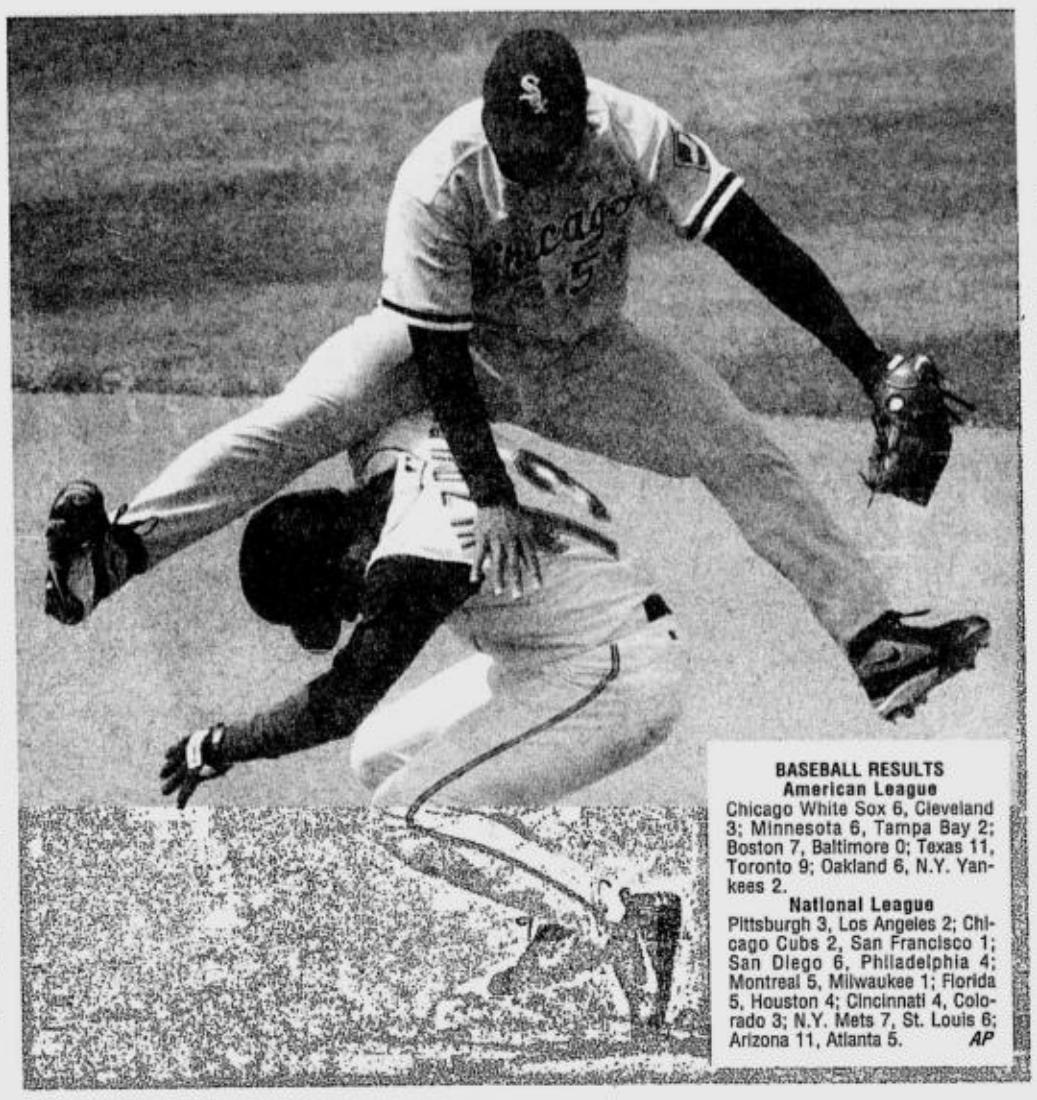
Slated at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym is the 3 p.m. tussle between RCPI Negros and Professional Davao, followed by the 6 p.m. encounter between LBC Batangas and Casino CDO.

Scores:

NEGROS 84—Bautista 21, Francisco 16, Madrid 14, Hugnatan 10, Espiritu 10, Ferriols 8, Aldeguer 3, Ang 2, Benedicto 0.

CAGAYAN DE ORO 83—Bughao 17, Sanz 15, Naron 14, Capus 11, Epondulan 10, Calimag 10, Bravo 3, Lopez 3, Manucat 0, Buenaventura 0, Pimentel 4.

Quarters: 16-24, 46-45, 66-65, 84-83.



FLYING BASEMAN
Chicago White Sox second baseman Ray Durham jumps over Cleveland Indians runner Omar Vizquel in the sixth inning Thursday at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. Durham forced Vizquel out and made the throw to first base to get Indians runner Ricky Gonzales for the double play. Chicago won, 6-3. AP

BASEBALL RESULTS
American League
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 3; Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 2; Boston 7, Baltimore 0; Texas 11, Toronto 9; Oakland 6, N.Y. Yankees 2.

National League
Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 2; Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 1; San Diego 6, Philadelphia 4; Montreal 5, Milwaukee 1; Florida 5, Houston 4; Cincinnati 4, Colorado 3; N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 6; Arizona 11, Atlanta 5. AP

Carrion to confer with GMA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commissioner Cynthia Carrion yesterday said she would talk to President Arroyo and explain her side regarding a petition submitted by top officials of the PSC accusing her of "coddling an erring employee."

Carrion also told the INQUIRER that she's "weighing the situation" after PSC chair Eric Buhain and commissioners Butch Ramirez, Leo Montemayor and Richie Garcia submitted their petition to Malacañang early this month.

Ironically, Carrion told her fellow officials Thursday during their board meeting that she's finally letting go of Agnes Cruz, who allegedly has P.5 million of unliquidated expenses from the PSC.

"It was so sad because I only knew of the letter this morning when I should be furnished a copy of the complaint against me," said Carrion. "That was a day after I told them that I'm firing Agnes.

"The least they could do was tell me right there and then that 'we're sorry but we have already submitted a petition against you.'"

She said nobody among the PSC board members called her up to explain and stressed that she's not going to try to get in touch with them.

"They are the ones who did an injustice to me," Carrion told the INQUIRER. "But as far as I know I didn't do any injustice against them."

Carrion added that though Cruz was cleared by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel of any wrong doing, she has to fire her assistant because "she was feeling the pressure by the board."

Cruz maintained that she has no bad records with the PSC and even told the INQUIRER that the OGCC even ordered the PSC to pay her back wages.

Buhain and the commissioners didn't answer their cellphones when the INQUIRER called them up.

Puyat SC hosts Labor Day kegfest

A BIG bowling event called the "Labor Day Challenge" will be staged on May 1 by the Metro East Tenpin Bowling Club (METBC) at the Puyat Sports Center, Q Plaza in Cainta, Rizal.

More than P100,000 will be up for grabs in the one-day singles tournament sponsored by Selecta, Gov. Nini Ynares, Johnny's Fried Chicken, Stem Exports Phils. Inc., Director Vic Natividad and Sonorous Managerial Services.

The tourney is open to bowlers with averages not exceeding 189 and 180 for the men's and ladies' divisions, respectively. There will be three squads set at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Registration ends an hour before each roll-off. Entry fees are P1,800 for men and P1,200 for women. According to METBC president Johnny Cotangco and tournament director Mark Marquez, prizes are P40,000, P20,000, P10,000, P5,000, P4,000, P3,000 and P2,000 for the first to seventh places in the men's division and P15,000, P7,500, P5,000, P2,500 and P1,200 for the first to fifth places in the women's group.

SPORTSWATCH

Amado posts double victory

IT'S A double whammy for former Rep. Amado Bagatsing as his entry Air Gladiator ruled the 2nd LGBA Cockfighting Conference 6-Cock Derby Thursday night at the Mandaluyong Coliseum and grabbed the lead in the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year 2002 race. Bagatsing's bet racked up six straight victories to emerge solo champion while hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez (Firebird) and lawyer Ram Lopez/Tony Litonjua (Altuz Starwars) were runner-up finishers with five points each. With identical four points are Manny Santos and Blandy Tolentino (MS San Pablo Heat), Bobby del Rosario (Mangzee farm A), engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum), Sandy Javier and LGBA president Boy Diaz (RMR) and Tony Galang/William Go (5th of May Gold Cup). Thus, Bagatsing tallied a total of 9.5 points in the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year 2002 race. The Gamecock Breeder of the Year will be known on May 28 and 30, during the 3rd Conference LGBA 7-Cock Championship Derby.

7th Galleros meet set April 29

BIG and small-time cockers and breeders in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will troop to the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City with the holding of the 7th Galleros de Manila 5-Cock Derby on April 29. Galleros stalwarts Iking Araneta, Jimmyton Araneta, William Go, Lito Alcantara, Emmitt San Juan, Gene Avendano, ASF, Jun Marasigan of Saipan, Bobby del Rosario, Buddy Robregado, Voltaire Fronda and others will surely parade their feathered fighters against any worthy opponents. Hosts Iking Araneta and Lito Alcantara said that weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted one day before the derby from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The pot money is P11,000 and the minimum bet is P5,500. For inquiries, call Rizelle at 893-2093 or Roligon at 833-2275, 833-1638.

Nat'l netfest gets under way

THE FIRST Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships, a Group 1 event sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association, kicks off today with the men's singles main draw at the New Subic Bay International Tennis and Sports Center. The tournament, patterned after the Wimbledon, features the country's best players led by Davis Cuppers Johnny Arcilla, Adelo Abadia, Joseph Victorino and Michael Mora III. Leading the campaigners in the women's division, which will start on May 1, are KL SEAG veteran Czarina Mae Arevalo and UAAP MVP Charise Godoy of the University of Santo Tomas. Aside from the men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles, there will be competitions in the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under, and unisex 10-under divisions which will begin on May 4.

Villarete takes on Korean

KOREAN Chung Soo Han ousted third seed Bryan Dayleg, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, yesterday to advance in the boys' 14-under finals against top seed Raymond Villarete in the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Villarete, champion in the Juntaphil Cup in Baguio early this month, defeated seventh seed Gerard Bergavera of Bacolod, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. In other matches, De Guzman brothers Ian and Irwin beat separate rivals to reach the finals of their respective divisons. Ian downed Chase Tinio of La Salle, 6-4, 6-4, to advance against Cebuano Maclean Barraquias, who won by default over Nino Salvador, in the boys' 21-under class.

Parfan, Villanueva darts champs

WORLD Cuppers Celso Parfan II of Robson and Baby Villanueva of Winmau-CTFC once more stamped their class by winning the men's and women's singles title, respectively, of the Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Cup-Philmasters '02 Darts Championship held recently at the Barangay Manok Restaurant in Cagayan de Oro City. The multititled Parfan, Darts Council of the Philippines top-ranked player, defeated surprise finalist Johnny Feldonia of Cotabato City, 6-4, to claim his first Philmasters Title. Villanueva, on the other hand, posted an easy 5-2 victory over Rose Noble of Lovables to win the women's diadem. Philmasters is one of the DCP's four major event lined up in San Miguel Beer Darts Tour 2002 sponsored by San Miguel Corp. Co-sponsors are Robson Sports Craft, Terton Craft, Unicorns Darts, Cebu Pacific and Kremil-S.

Craic presents Spanish GP

MICHAEL Schumacher and the Ferrari Team are on a roll. Schumacher led Brazilian teammate Rubens Barrichello to a 1-2 finish in the recent San Marino Grand Prix held at the Imola Circuit. Diehard fans of Formula One racing witnessed how it happened live at the F1 Club Live's raceday party held at The Craic. F1 Club Live's successful hosting of the San Marino race will be reprised this weekend when it hosts the live telecast of the Spanish Grand Prix, the fifth round of the 2002 Formula One Grand Prix series at the same venue this Sunday (April 28). The Craic, fast turning to be the favorite haunt of gen-exers, yuppies and expats, is located at the 3rd level of Max's Restaurant on Jupiter Street near Makati Avenue in Makati City.

Schumacher is 'most powerful'

BARCELONA, Spain—There's no dispute. When he's racing in a Formula One car, Michael Schumacher is No. 1. Off the track, he's also the sport's most influential person. That's the opinion in the current issue of F1 Magazine, which rates Schumacher as the sport's most powerful actor, even more influential than Bernie Ecclestone, the president of Formula One Management. Schumacher heads a list of the "100 most powerful" followed by Ecclestone, Ferrari chair Luca di Montezemolo, and Max Mosley, the president of FIA–the governing body of world motor sports. AP

3-day Pangasinan cycling begins

THE MAYOR Louie Agbayani Invitational Cycling Classic will be held today, ushering a three-day cycling festival in Pangasinan. The 135km race offering a total pot of P25,000 is in conjunction with the Sual town fiesta celebrations. Also slated is the 9th Engineer Fidel Ginez race tomorrow, which is part of the Asingan town fiesta festivities. The 171-km event staking P35,000 will traverse the eastern towns of Pangasinan. The Alaxan 7th Pista'y Dayat race, on the other hand, will be held Monday.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Live-in partner of Makati vice mayor in suicide

By Christian V. Esguerra

RACQUEL Ambrosio, 24, called up two women friends and told them she and her live-in partner, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, had had a "minor disagreement" and she asked them to come Wednesday night, according to investigators.

When the friends, identified only as Irene and Nomie, went to the condo unit that Ambrosio and the vice mayor shared, they found their friend seated on the bed, bleeding from a gunshot wound in the stomach, police said.

A statement from the Makati public information office said the two friends found Ambrosio about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday in a 28th floor unit of Peak Towers on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, Makati.

Ambrosio, who had a 3-month-old son with Mercado, died about 8 a.m. yesterday at the Makati Medical Center, according to case investigator PO2 Juancho Ibis.

Mercado yesterday asked for prayers for Ambrosio.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, Mercado said he was only coming to terms with Ambrosio's death.

"Racquel and I loved and cared for each other deeply," the statement said. "I am only coming to terms with her death and I ask all our friends to pray for her so she may find eternal rest."

Councilor comes to the aid of loose change

By Jerome Aning

RETAIL outlets or *sari-sari* stores in Manila which refuse to accept or give change in 5- and 10- centavo coins could face up to P2,000 in fine if a bill filed by Councilor Luciano "Lou" Veloso were passed.

Veloso said some unscrupulous owners of *sari-sari* stores, drug stores, 24-hour convenience stores and public market stalls are "cheating" customers by refusing to use or accept the coins.

"They are disregarding the old Filipino adage, *'Kung kulang ng sentimo, 'di mabubuo ang piso,* (A missing centavo does not a peso make)" and are making consumers shock absorbers of higher prices of goods, which could be bought for less in other bigger outlets," Veloso said.

He said these retailers get "illicit profits" from the 5- and 10-centavo coins they accumulate in change which the customers are not given.

The 6th district councilor said that if major retail stores and supermarkets in malls use the 5- and 10-centavo coins, so should small retail stores, which many poor residents patronize.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas circulated 5- and 10-centavo coins, mostly made of copper, a few years ago.

But because of their small sizes, many people and establishments do not want to use them.

Under Veloso's bill, the aggrieved consumer may file a complaint with the city treasurer's office, which has to send a representative to verify the complaint and impose the corresponding penalty on the violator.

Once the bill is approved, first-time violators would be fined P500, which is doubled for the second offense.

Third-time offenders would be fined P2,000 and their business permits and licenses would be revoked by City Hall.

Veloso's proposal was passed on first reading during the city council's session last Thursday. It was referred to the committees on laws and consumer affairs.

Gun club president nabbed for illegal manufacture of guns

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has filed charges against the president of the Rizal Gun Club for illegally manufacturing and selling firearms and ammunition.

NBI agents on Wednesday arrested Brendo Villasanta, 47, in his house in Antipolo City, said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

During the raid, the agents seized 16 firearms of different calibers, including .45-caliber pistols, .38-caliber revolvers, 9-mm pistols, a shotgun, about 50 kilos of assorted ammunition, and equipment used in the manufacture of firearms and ammunition.

Lawyer Oscar Embido, head of the NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division, said he assigned a surveillance team to shadow Villasanta after he received an anonymous letter detailing the suspect's illegal manufacture and sale of guns and ammo.

When bureau men confirmed Villasanta's activities, they secured a search warrant and raided his house.

The suspect, now detained at the NBI jail, has been charged with violating the law on the illegal manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition.

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2	ROLLERBALL
3	S2PID LUV
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8598

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	
3	
4	PISTOLERO
5	DEVIL'S MASK
6	I AM SAM
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
9 (DOLBY)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PISTOLERO

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	S2PID LUV
2	PISTOLERO
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
6 (DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8	HARI NG SELDA
9	RIPPER

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
8	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
2	I AM SAM
3 (DTS)	ROLLERBALL
4	S2PID LUV
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SCORPION KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SCORPION KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet — PISTOLERO, HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3656

1	SCORPION KING
2	ROLLERBALL
3	DEVIL'S MASK

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	RESERVE
3	PISTOLERO
4	RESERVE
5	CLOSED

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SCORPION KING
2	RUSH HOURS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2190

1	SHOWTIME
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
2 (DTS)	ROLLERBALL
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ROLLERBALL
2 (DOLBY)	SHOWTIME
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	S2PID LUV
2	ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	ROLLERBALL
3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4	PAROLA
5	S2PID LUV

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ROLLERBALL
2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	SCORPION KING
2	ROLLERBALL
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHOWTIME
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MIMIC 2
2	RESERVE
3	SHOWTIME

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PAROLA
2	S2PID LUV
3	SCORPION KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	S2PID LUV
2	TIME MACHINE
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	E.T

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME

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PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING!

RIPPER

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	DEVIL MASK
4	I AM SAM
5	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
6	ROLLERBALL
7	SNOW DOGS
8	MONTE CRISTO
9	BLADE 2
10	SHOWTIME

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	SCORPION KING
2	BLADE 2
3	ROLLERBALL
4	DEVIL MASK
5	SHOWTIME
6	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
7	I AM SAM

Metro East - Marcos Hway
682- 8193 / 8780

1	I AM SAM
2	ROLLERBALL
3	SCORPION KING
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	SNOW DOGS
6	SHOWTIME
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	SCORPION KING
2	E.T.
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	I AM SAM
5	ROLLERBALL
6	E.T.
7	S2PID LUV
8	SHOWTIME

Imus
471 - 8188 / 875- 3838

1	SCORPION KING
2	CROSSROAD
3	ROLLERBALL
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	I AM SAM
6	S2PID LUV

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	SCORPION KING
2	CROSSROADS
3	ICE AGE
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	S2PID LUV
6	MIMIC 2

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	SCORPION KING
2	BLADE 2
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	TIME MACHINE
5	BLOW DRY
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
2	SCORPION KING
3	MONTE CRISTO
4	SHOWTIME
5	RIPPER
6	

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Scorpio fan stabbed dead in karaoke bar

By Philip C. Tubeza

ALVIN Gatilla, 21, will never again sing.

Gatilla, of Tondo, Manila, was stabbed dead by Germei Dacasin, 23, also of Tondo, inside a videoke bar in Manila before dawn yesterday, according to detective Virgo villareal of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Gatilla and Dacasin were believed to have been after the same woman, police said.

Gatilla's companion Tony Maambong, 29, was injured after Dacasin also stabbed him, detective Villareal said.

He said Gatilla and Maambong were singing with their friends inside Ilaya KTV and Restaurant on Ilaya Street in Tondo when the stabbing happened about 4 a.m.

Gatilla was singing the Scorpion 1970s hit "When the Smoke is Going Down" when Dacasin grabbed the microphone from him, witnesses told police.

Waitress Maritess Montances said she was at the same table with Gatilla and Maambong, while Dacasin and a certain Jojo were at a nearby table.

"Germie suddenly stood up and walked toward our table," the waitress told police. "Then he stabbed Alvin twice, in the back and in the chest, before stabbing Tony."

She said she was surprised when Dacasin suddenly stabbed the two men since they were not arguing at all.

Gatilla tried to go after the attacker despite his wounds, witnesses said.

He was brought to the Mary Johnson Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival, according to the detective.

Maambong was still under observation at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital, Villareal added.

PO2 Gilbert Doman and PO2 Arturo Coronel were able to arrest the suspect in his house in Tondo four hours after the stabbing.

"Dacasin was sleeping when we went to his house," PO2 Doman said. He was still drunk."

Framed up by anti-narcotics cops !

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I HATE drug pushers and drug traffickers. I place them in the same category as kidnappers, mass murderers and rapists. They should be hanged or beheaded after they're found guilty by the courts.

But the worse type of criminal is the law enforcer who plants evidence—drugs, money, weapons—on innocent citizens so he can show his superiors that he's working. Or make a fast buck at the expense of his innocent captive.

Don't be alarmed, but I think more than 50 per cent of our narcotics agents are the kind of criminal who fit the above description. If they're not planting evidence on civilians, they're themselves pushers or dealers. Many of them are addicts.

***

I am publishing this item to call on our authorities to take a second, long, hard look at our "narcs" so innocent citizens can be saved from being framed up.

If you are indifferent to this item, that's your problem. But one of these days your son or daughter, a relative, or a friend's son or daughter might fall prey to a frame-up.

***

Unlike other cops who go after violators of ordinary laws like those on traffic, policemen assigned to enforce special laws like anti-drugs don't earn "extra" money every day. But when they do have the chance to earn extra, they go for the big time.

And when does a narc strike it big ? When he arrests a big-time pusher or trafficker and his prey comes across in exchange for his freedom. Or when the anti-narcotics cop is in the payroll of a drug syndicate.

When he takes part in a big drug bust. Part of the seized items are set aside "for the boys." When he plants illegal drugs on innocent but rich citizens who shell out big sums of money so their "crime" won't be made public.

***

In the early morning of April 20, Saturday, I was awakened by a call from a friend asking for my help. His nephew, Tristan John Ngo, 27, was being held at the anti-narcotics office at the Quezon City police station Kamuning and Edsa.

My friend wanted to know why Tristan, 27, who passed his time playing billiards and gawking at girls, was arrested in an alleged buy-bust operation by the police.

A college graduate, Tristan doesn't have a job. His parents, who are in the upper middle class, support him because to them he is still a baby. Tristan is a "special child," a result of having been forced out of his mother at birth. "*Na-forcep sa ulo,*" as his mother Thelma describes his birth. Tristan talks like a normal man but one immediately notices his childish condition in the way he talks.

***

These were the facts I gathered from my friend before I called up the police station: Tristan was being held with three other young men, all of them with Chinese surnames. They were arrested at the parking lot of Derick's Billiard Hall on Tomas Morato at 3 a.m. several hours earlier. Tristan had just finished playing billiards with the three young men and was starting his car when some men poked pistols and M-16 Armalites at him.

When I called up the station, I was handed the phone to Tristan's brother who told me that he and his companions were not allowed to talk to their relatives. They were also not allowed to call a lawyer. This is a violation of their constitutional rights.

His brother also told me that while Tristan was protesting his innocence to the cops, he saw a certain Inspector Iglesias flick a lighted cigarette into his face and slap him. Feeling helpless and asking for sympathy for his brother, he was told by another cop: "*Pagpasensiyahan mo na si hepe, kasi nakainom lang yan* (You'll have to forgive the chief because he's a bit tipsy)."

***

I asked to talk to an officer at the anti-narcotics office. There was none. I told the cop with whom I was talking that the boys should be allowed to talk to their relatives or secure the services of a lawyer.

I also told the guy at the other end of the line that I learned about what Iglesias did to Tristan. Then I hung up.

I was told later that after my talk with the cop at the desk, the boys were allowed to talk to their relatives.

But it was the beginning of their ordeal at the hands of the anti-narcotics cops.

***

It took the anti-narcotics cops more than 24 hours to file charges against their captives.

Between the time that the boys were allowed access to their relatives and lawyers and the filing of charges with the inquest prosecutor, there were hints thrown by persons who acted as the cops' mouthpieces that "everything would be settled for price."

And how much was the cost of the settlement? I was told that the bargaining started with P5 million. Then it went down to P3 million, and then P1 million. And finally, P500,000.

***

My friend, Thelma's brother and Tristan's uncle, asked me whether it was proper for his sister to come across.

My immediate reply: If his nephew was innocent, why come across?

Tristan's mother followed my advice. So, Tristan was included in the charge sheet.

In the charge sheet, investigators pointed to the boy as the one who received P500,000 from a cop who posed as buyer of the drugs.

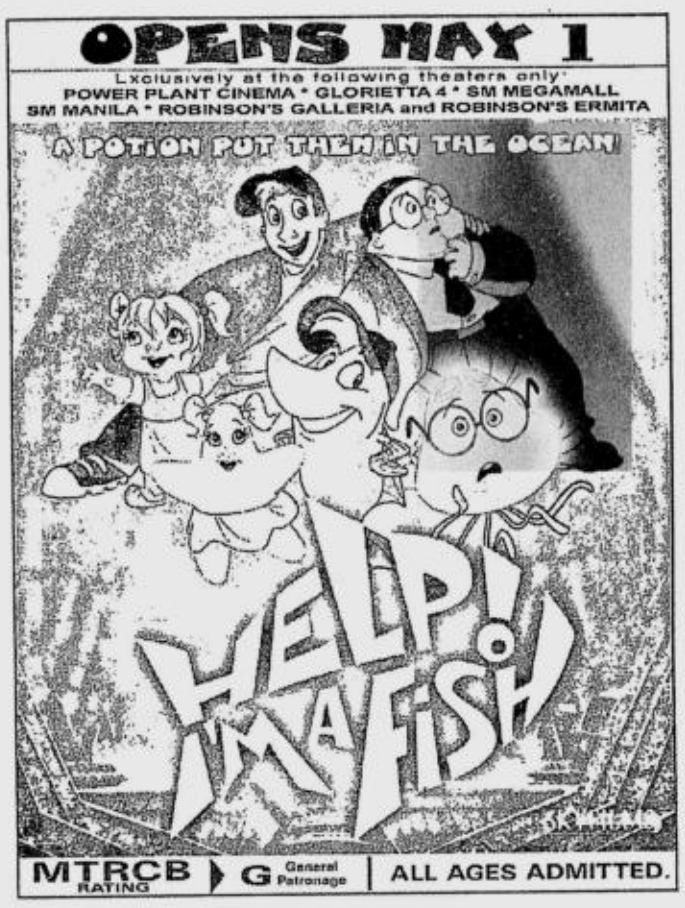
***

Now, you'll ask: How do you know Tristan is innocent ?

When I told Director Efren Fernandez, chief of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group (Narcgroup), about my feelings about Tristan (I couldn't say the say thing about the others), the chief narc shot back: "They (suspects) say the same thing, they're innocent."

I want to show General Fernandez and my readers why I think Tristan is innocent. I covered the police beat for so many years and hobnobbed with policemen for such a long time I know how the mind of a typical cop, whether he's good or bad.

In the next issues, I will show readers how the constitutional rights of Tristan and his companions were violated. And why I think Tristan could not have committed the crime imputed to him.



This blank space is part of a color experiment. If you turn to the page behind this ad, you will find an array of color patches. These patches are part of a color audit we are performing in cooperation with this newspaper to determine consistency with various printing industry and ISO standards for graphic reproduction. These patches will be measured by scientific color instruments and software. To ensure the accuracy of our measurements, we have to keep this space empty. **Lexmedia Digital** will release an ICC Output Profile based on these accumulated measurements for integration into your graphic software applications.

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Workers urge TC officials to resign

WORKERS from different labor groups yesterday picketed the Tariff Commission in Quezon City to call for the resignation of tariff commissioners and other officials.

The labor groups said in a joint statement that they feared the continued loss of more jobs due to the government's failure to implement safety nets against unfair trade.

Members of the Association of Democratic Labor Organizations, the Alliance of Progressive Labor and the Philippine Cement Workers' Council took turns in denouncing the commission for failing to implement safeguard measures to defend local jobs and industries.

In particular, they accused TC commissioners and officials of irregularities in denying the petition of the cement industry for safeguards against the deluge of imported cement in the country.

The TC reportedly recommended the denial of the cement industry's safeguard application that no safeguard measures be imposed upon imported cement. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas reportedly found the TC report was baseless but announced he could not overturn the report because of deficiencies in the Safeguard Measures Law.

PCWC secretary general Samuel Eslava said the decision of the commission only shows loopholes in the safety nets that favor importers who do not give any benefit to the country or to consumers and, worse, fail to protect Filipino workers and domestic industries

He warned that more industries would soon die and thousands of workers would continue to lose jobs unless these holes are plugged and remedies are put in place.

RED-LETTER protest is staged by members of several labor groups at the Tariff Commission.

Nayon workers threaten to sue park management

By Christian V. Esguerra

EMPLOYEES of Nayong Pilipino yesterday threatened to file a case against the theme park management with the Civil Service Commission if it fails to provide them with proper separation benefits.

Fernando Evangelista, president of the Nayong Pilipino Employees Union, said employees have no other choice but to file a case against Nayon executive director Charito Planas and the board of trustees since "they have been ignoring us for too long."

"We just want to get enough separation pay that will help us get a fresh start after Nayon is closed," Evangelista said in Filipino.

The employees are demanding a separation pay equivalent to their two-month salary for every year of service rendered.

Planas yesterday argued that the law provides for a base amount representing only a month's salary.

PLANAS

She said employees should not go after her and the board of trustees since they even urged the proper authorities to raise the base amount to one-and-a-half month.

"They should not make me their target," she said. "They know that I'm on their side."

Planas also advised the employees not to push through with their plan to set up human barricades to block the impending demolition of Nayong Pilipino to give way to a new airport terminal.

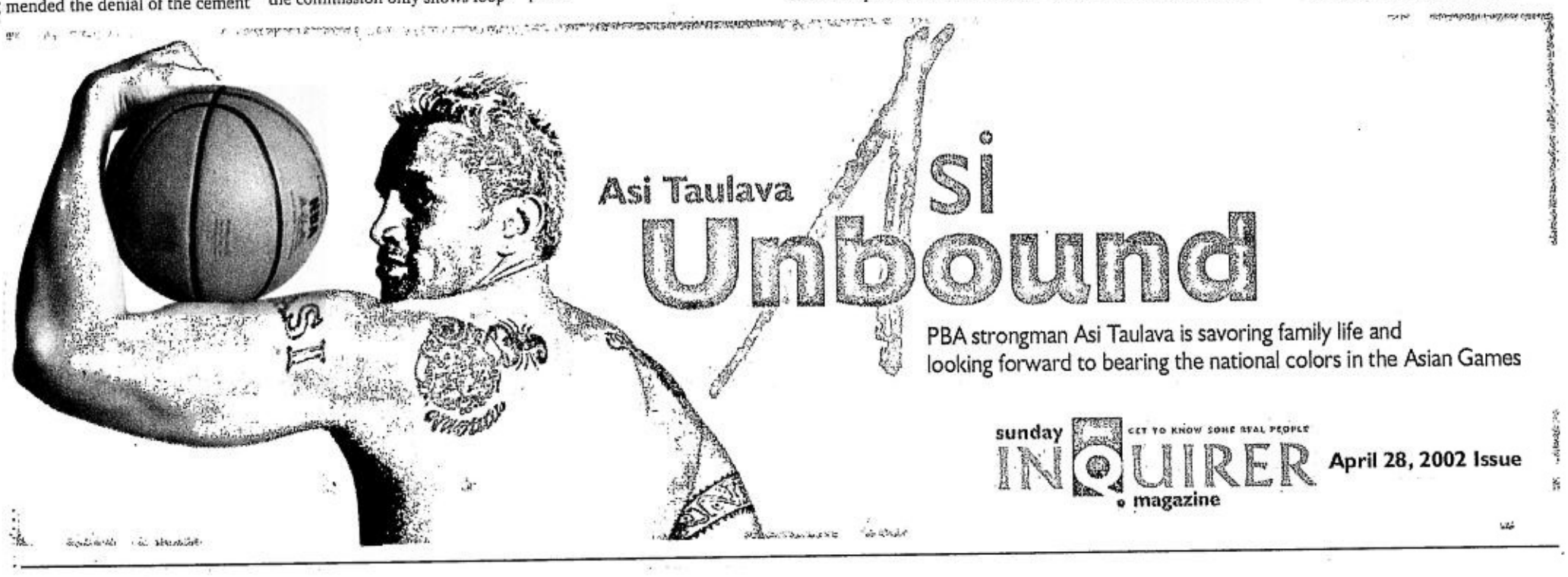
"It would only lead them to trouble," she said. "As government employees, they cannot stage any picket."

Sixty employees stand to lose their jobs anytime next month after the Nayong Pilipino management allowed the Manila International Airport Authority to take over 8.6 hectares of the theme park.

The property will be turned into an internal access road and a parallel taxiway for the airport's Terminal 3, which is set to open in December.

Evangelista said employees have been trying to set meetings with the management to discuss their compensation.

But Planas has been consistently ignoring any dialogue, he said.



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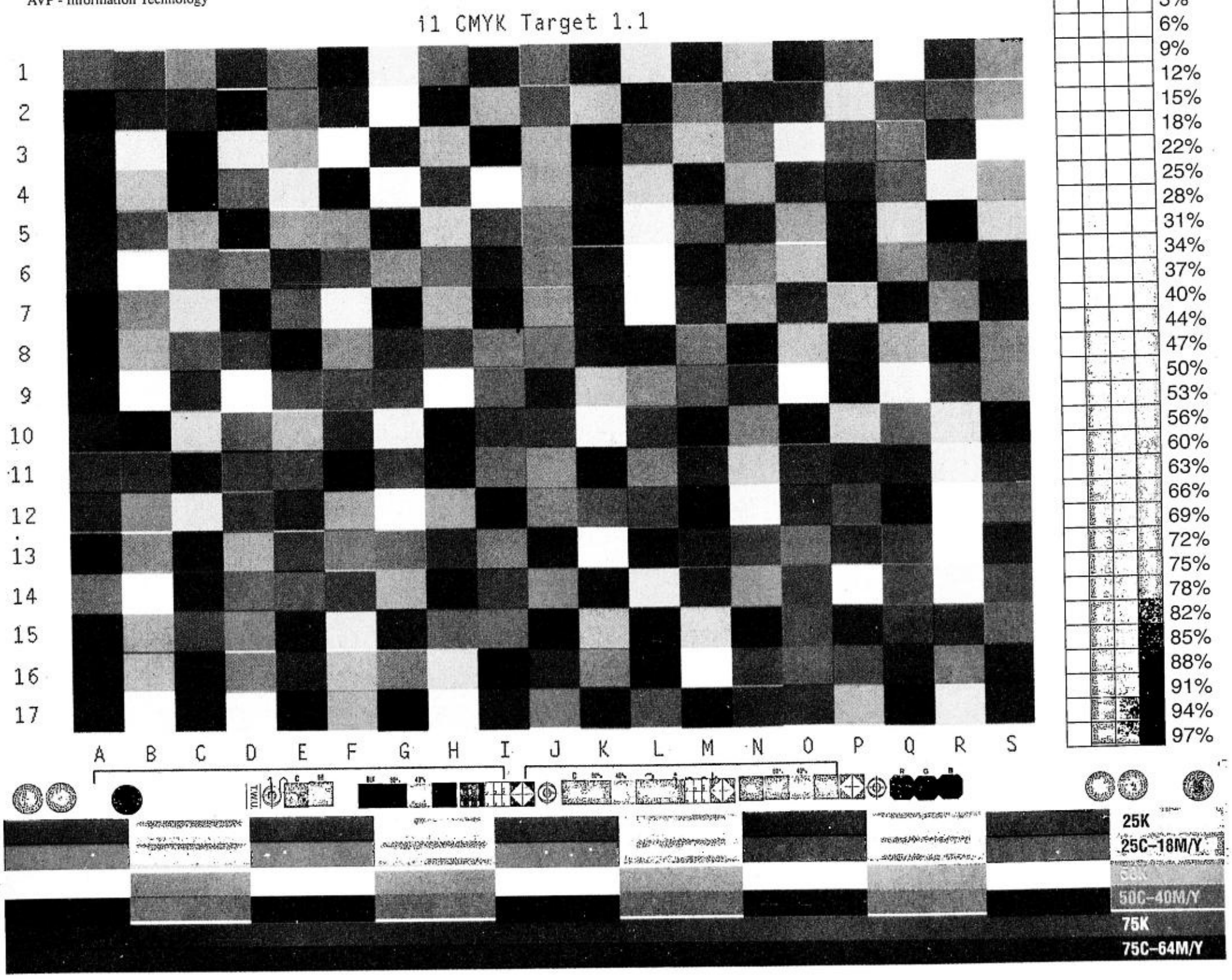
Gary Libby
AVP - Information Technology



Fire strikes Welfareville

ABOUT 1,500 families lost their homes and at least P10 million worth of property were destroyed when fire broke out in a slum in Mandaluyong City on Thursday night.

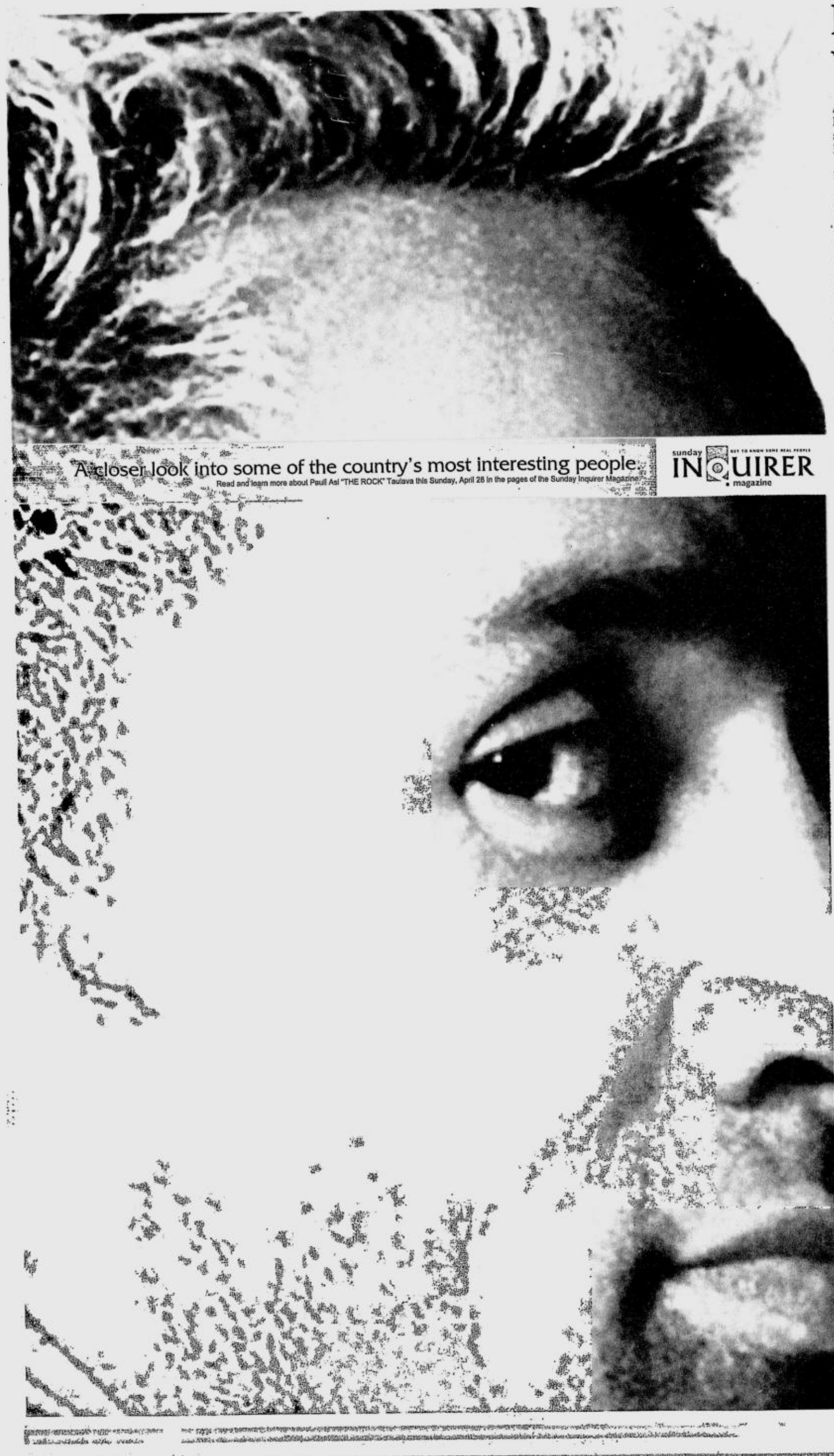
Nobody was reported hurt in the two-hour blaze.

The fire started at 7:42 p.m. in a shanty occupied by Riza Mongay and her family in the middle of Block 37 of the Welfareville Compound in Barangay Addition Hills, investigators said. The fire soon destroyed at least 500 other shanties.

Arson investigator FO1 Victorio Tablay said 17 fire trucks from Metro Manila responded to the call to stop the fire.

FO1 Federico Macandog of the Mandaluyong city fire station reports indicated that an unattended candle in the Mongay shanty caused the blaze.

Nelson F. Flores



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Caloocan street kids rounded up

A TOTAL of 118 street children and vagrants were rounded up in Caloocan City yesterday on Mayor Rey Malonzo's order.

The roundup was done at the Sangandaan Public Cemetery, the Monumento area, on Samson Road and on 10th Avenue. Only 87 of the street children and vagrants are from Caloocan and they will be sent to Tahanang Mapagpala and the Social Development Center of the city. The rest will be referred back to their cities and towns.

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ROLLERBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEVIL'S MASK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I AM SAM
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HALIK SA LUPA / SUGAR AND SPICE
ODEON	SCORPION KING
ODEON-2	ITLOG
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	SCORPION KING
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SCORPION KING
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	PISTOLERO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	535-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	E.T.
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-4	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-5	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-6	I AM SAM
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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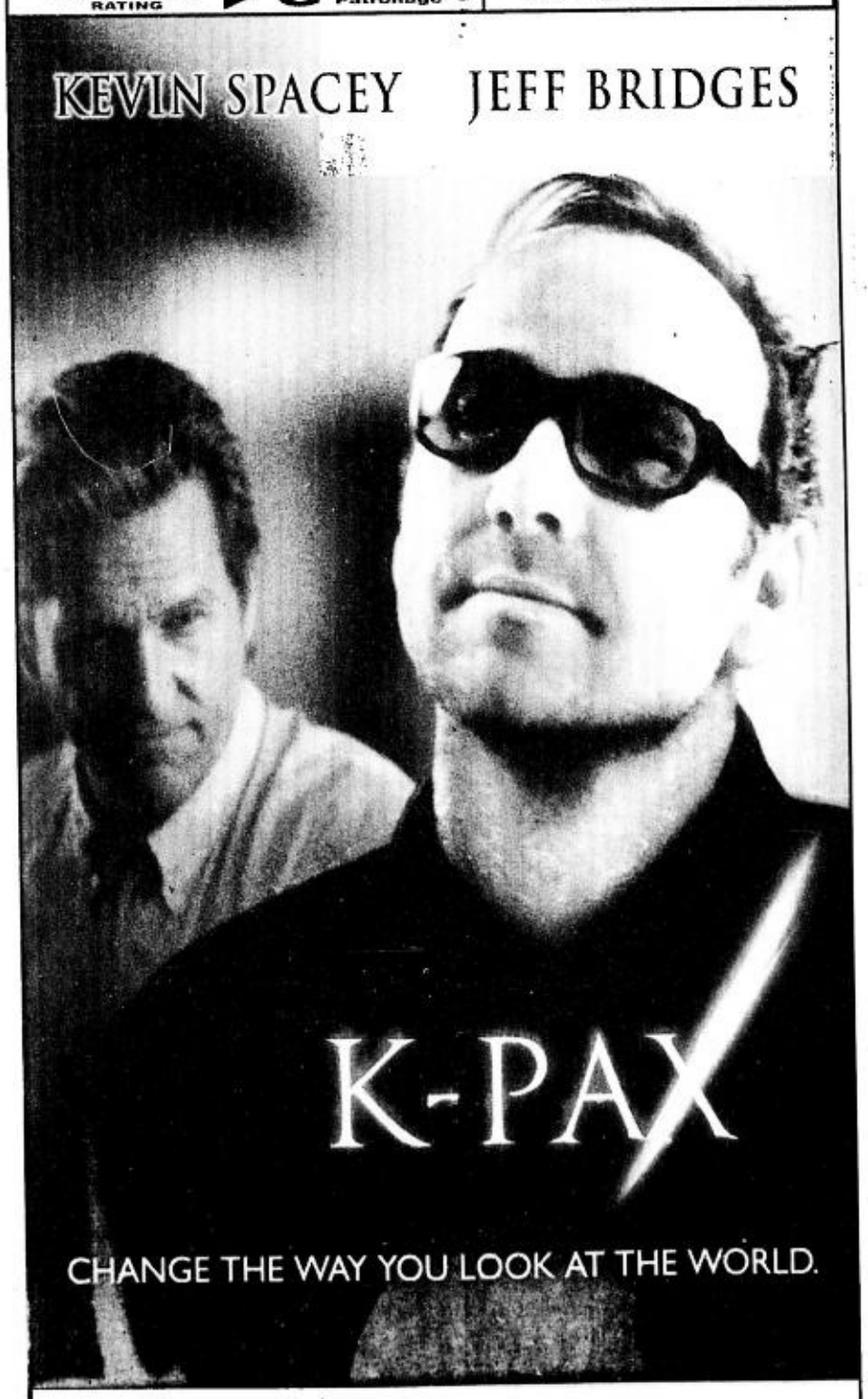

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OPENS MAY 8

7 car thieves bagged in QC and Cainta

By Nelson F. Flores

SEVEN suspected car thieves fell in the hands of the Central Police District Office after a series of operations that began on Thursday in Cainta, Rizal and Quezon City.

CPDO director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor identified the suspects as Wilson Borromeo, Antonio Cajudo, Roniel Trinidad, Bienvenido Gonzales, Lina Alegardo, Benigno Sicad and Reynaldo Cadores.

The suspects, said to be members of the dreaded Parohinog Gang, were arrested while they were casing their prospective victims, Tor said in a statement.

"We closely monitored their activities and it was only on Thursday that an opportunity for their arrest came," Tor explained.

The CPDO chief said four of the suspects were rounded up at the parking lot of the Santa Lucia East Mall in Cainta, two were arrested inside the Land Transportation Office's main compound in Quezon City, and the seventh man was nabbed at the parking lot of SM Fairview.

Tor said the suspects were arrested in a span of three hours.

Police also seized from the suspects three Toyota Revo vans, a Nissan Sentra car, all believed to be stolen; a .38-caliber revolver, a .45-caliber pistol, and forged LTO documents from the suspects, Tor said.

Tor also believed that some of the suspects may have committed other crimes such as rape, aside from stealing cars.

Tor said the suspects will be charged with violations of Republic Act 6539 (Anti-Carnapping Law of 1972), illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, abduction, frustrated homicide, rape and falsification of documents.

Phone lineman stabbed in sleep

A TELEPHONE company lineman was stabbed dead while asleep at home in Pasig City late Thursday night, police said.

Cesar Lacsamana, 43, of Barangay Bagong Katipunan, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Rizal Medical Center due to a stab wound in the back.

Police said the stabbing happened about 11:30 p.m. while Lacsamana was fast asleep.

PO1 Ramil Minor said neighbors heard Lacsamana arguing with someone inside his house before he was found. A few hours after the loud argument, they heard a scream, the neighbors said.

Nelson F. Flores

Barangay official's son in rob

By Philip Tubeza and Edson Tandoc Jr.

GERMAN tourist Daniella Wieprich, 34, lost two gold necklaces worth P30,000 to a snatcher in front of the Manila Zoo on Thursday afternoon, police said. The suspect turned out to be the son of a local barangay *kagawad* or community security officer.

Policemen are looking for Ferdinand "Bongbong" Balce, 18, of Malate, Manila, son of *kagawad* Fely Balce, for the snatching, said Chief Insp. Marcelino Delenos Pedrozo Jr., chief of the Western Police District General Assignments Section.

The suspect's mother surrendered one of the necklaces but police also invited her for questioning, Pedrozo added.

He said the snatching happened about 2:45 p.m. Thursday while Daniella, her husband Tillen, and their companions were waiting for a taxi in front of the Manila Zoo.

Daniella told investigators that the young man suddenly appeared and grabbed her necklaces. Her husband and companions ran after the snatcher, who disappeared in the nearby Paraiso ng Maynila playground.

Tillen and his companions were surprised when a witness told them that the suspect, "a well-known snatcher," was a *kagawad*'s son. They also told them where the young man lived.

The victim's group went to the WPD headquarters and reported the snatching. A team from WPD-GAS, led by SPO1 Reynaldo P. Casem, went to the suspect's house but he was not there.

His mother was home and she surrendered one of the necklaces, which was made of 18k gold, police said.

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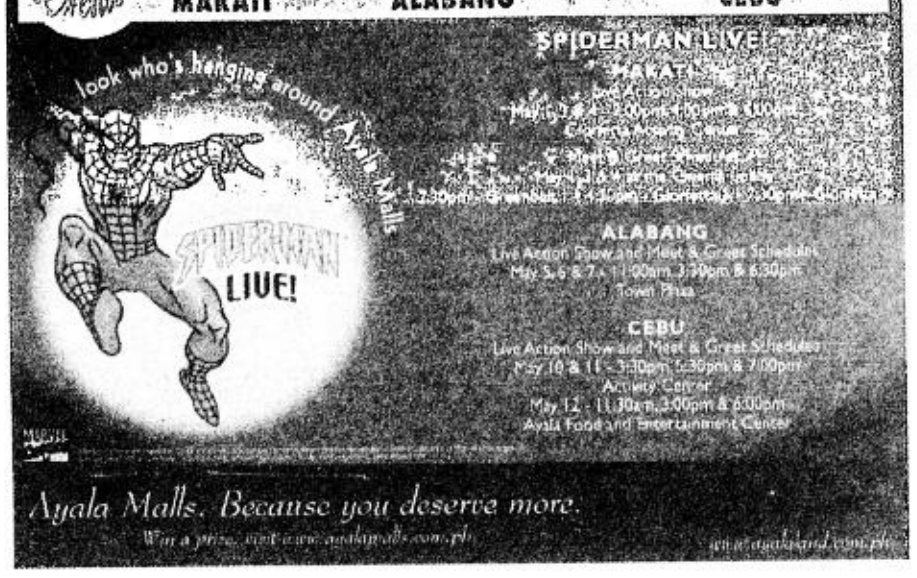
1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 SCORPION KING
2 I AM SAM	2 SCORPION KING	2 SCORPION KING	2 I AM SAM
3 ROLLER BALL	3 SCORPION KING 12:00 nn/ 2:00 pm/ 4:00/ 6:00/ 8:00/ 10:00/ 12:00 mn GUARANTEED SEATS	3 I AM SAM	3 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 SCORPION KING	4 SNOW DOGS	4 LANI ON STAGE APRIL 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 SCORPION KING
	5 ROLLER BALL		5 ROLLER BALL
	6 I AM SAM		
	7 SHOWTIME		

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15	SCORPION KING- P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	RETURN TO NEVERLAND - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
ROLLERBALL - R 18 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	SHOWTIME - P 13 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	I AM SAM - GP 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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SECOND WEEK!
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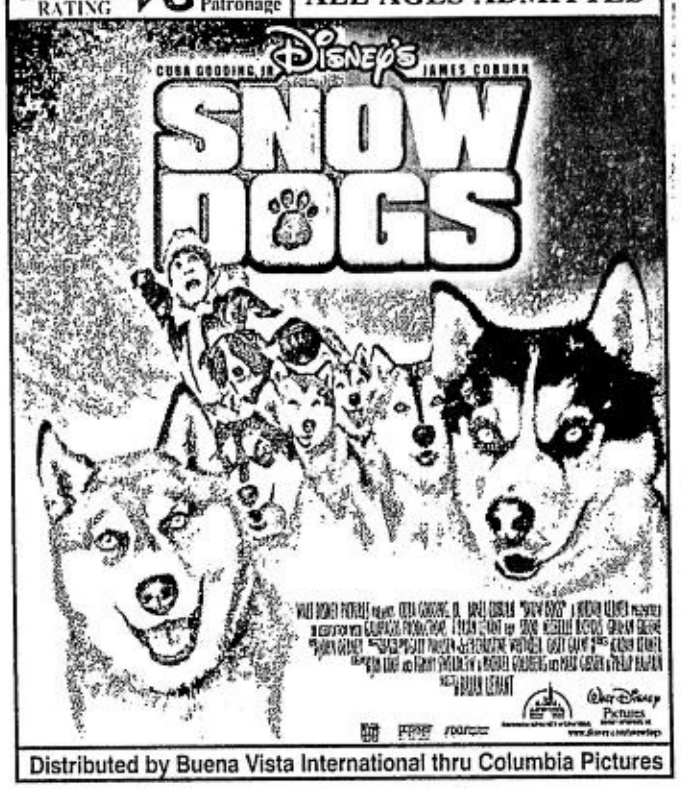

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*Promo period is from April11 to May 31, 2002

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Hot movie on new 'bloodsport' from the director of 'Die Hard'

High-octane action director John McTiernan (DIE HARD) presents a hot new movie packed with head-slamming action, breakneck speed and visceral thrills, in Columbia Pictures' ROLLERBALL.

In 2005, a violent game is the world's #1 phenomenon. Watched by the entire world, Rollerball is an extreme blood sport played with motorbikes, skates, a figure 8 track, a steel ball -- and no rules.

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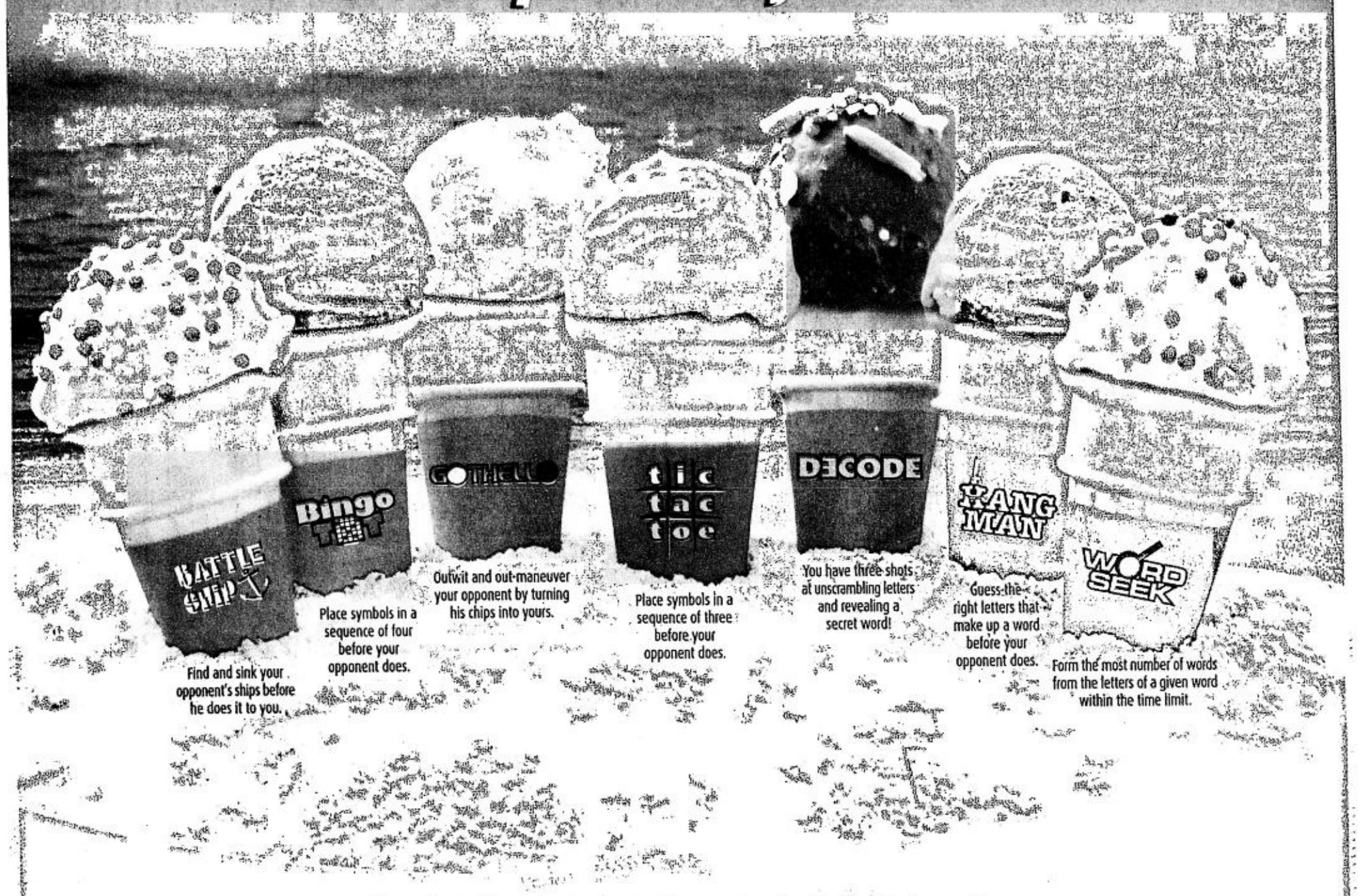

Enjoy these fun games for a chance to win the following prizes:
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The summer fun never stops here. Whether you play alone or against an opponent, you'll get points for every move you make--and even more for winning the match. The more points you earn, the more chances of winning great prizes! So win while having fun! Play them today!

Earn 1 point for every move or for inviting a friend to play • Earn 5 points everytime you win in GOTHELLO, TIC-TAC-TOE, BINGOTXT, HANGMAN, WORDSEEK and BATTLESHIP. • Earn 3 points when you win in DECODE, every clue used deducts a point.

To access the service, key in these keywords and send to 238:

ACTION	KEYWORD
To register	REG < full name; address>
To enter your nickname	NICK <nickname>
To invite a friend	INVITE <celfone number>
To check your total raffle points	POINTS TXTGAMES
To allow other players to challenge you	ON
To send a message to your opponent while playing	SAY <message>
To know the rank of a player	RANK <nickname>

To play, key in PLAY <game code> and send to 238:

SMART TXTGAME	GAME CODE
BINGOTXT	BT
DECODE*	DC
GOTHELLO	GTLO
HANGMAN	HM
TIC-TAC-TOE	T3
BATTLESHIP	BS
WORDSEEK	WS

** One-player game only.*
For more instructions/commands key in **HELP <game code>** and send to 238.

Promo Draw Dates and Prizes:

DRAW	DATE	PRIZE
First Weekly Draw	APRIL 23, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Second Weekly Draw	APRIL 30, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Third Weekly Draw	MAY 7, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Fourth Weekly Draw	MAY 14, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Fifth Weekly Draw	MAY 21, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Sixth Weekly Draw	MAY 28, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Seventh Weekly Draw	JUNE 4, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Eighth Weekly Draw	JUNE 11, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Ninth Weekly Draw	JUNE 18, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
First Monthly Draw	MAY 14, 2002	₱25,000
Second Monthly Draw	JUNE 18, 2002	₱25,000
GRAND DRAW	JUNE 18, 2002	₱200, 000

Note: Cut-off time is 12 midnight of every Sunday prior to the draw date.

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Cement firms win fight to keep import tariff

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COURT of Appeals has granted a petition by the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) to block the government from implementing a ruling by the Tariff Commission to lift the provisional duty on cement imports.

This was announced yesterday by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who was a respondent in the Philcemcor suit along with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and cement importers Cohaco Trading Corp., Southern Cross Cement Corp. and Philippine Constructors Association.

Roxas said the TRO would be in effect for the next 60 days, which should allow the Department of Trade and Industry to continue collecting the provisional duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag until its 200-day implementation period expires on June 28.

Philcemcor accused Roxas of abusing his discretion in implementing the Tariff Commission's ruling recommending the lifting of the provisional duty and reimbursement of the P86-million cash bond amassed from the provisional duty, which was slapped in December.

Roxas had initially sided with Philcemcor in criticizing the Tariff Commission's finding that the cement industry's losses could not be attributed to the import surge but to massive interest payments repatriated to the Big Three—Holcim, Cemex and Lafarge—which took control of more than 90 percent of domestic production capacity. Roxas endorsed Philcemcor's petition to impose punitive duties and quotas on cement imports to the Tariff Commission.

Roxas had intended to defy the Tariff Commission's ruling and continue collecting the provisional duty until June 28. But when the Department of Justice ruled that the Tariff Commission's decision was final and binding, Roxas retreated from his defiant stance and instead declared that he would lobby to get tariff protection from the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters, which he also heads.

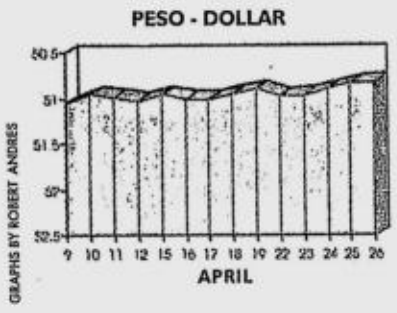
In its petition, Philcemcor insisted that the Tariff Commission's ruling was recommendatory and could be overturned by Roxas. It also claimed that the commission's decision was based on a flawed framework, inconsistent references, and erroneous methodology.

ROXAS

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

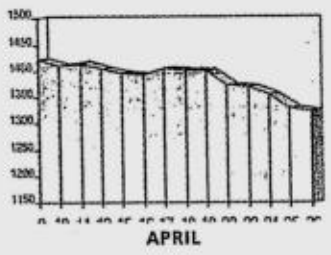
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.823 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2002

¥128.54 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2002

GOLD: $307.10/307.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 26, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Stocks drop to 3-month low

SHARE prices fell 0.3 percent to their lowest level in three months yesterday amid political concerns and weak corporate results, dealers said.

"People are still wary of anything that could happen from now until May 1," said Benedict Qua of Asiasec Equities, referring to the anniversary of deadly street riots around Malacañang Palace and reported agitation by followers of President Macapagal-Arroyo's detained predecessor Joseph Estrada.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gave up 4.54 points to close at 1,323.96, its lowest level since Jan. 30.

However, the rate of decline in the main index eased from Thursday's nearly 2-percent fall, signaling the emergence of some light bargain-hunting, they said.

Volume rose to 459 million shares but value fell to P531 million compared with 218 million shares worth P748 million traded on Thursday. *AFP*

Peso seen rallying to 49 to a dollar

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the peso has a good chance of bouncing back to 49 to a dollar within the coming months.

However, he cautioned that that a stronger local currency might temper the recovery of the export sector.

"A lot of people were already betting that the peso would bounce back to 49 but we will let market forces determine whether that is the currency's appropriate value," Buenaventura said.

The Development Budget Coordinating Committee, where the BSP governor is a member, has kept its peso forecast at 51-52 to a dollar for the year.

The last time the peso traded in the 49:$1 level was during the third quarter of deposed President Estrada's second year in office, before the juetengate scandal broke out and negative investors sentiment drove the peso lower.

"A lot of market players have come to the conclusion that the peso would appreciate rather than weaken. This was very much in contrast to the sentiment before when people were betting that that peso would keep on falling," Buenaventura said.

He said exporters were among those unloading their dollars in the spot market to take profits given the consensus that the local currency would rebound.

"Exporters are selling every time it hits 51 so the peso had been recovering," he said.

The peso yesterday closed slightly higher at 50.823 to $1 from 50.538, its strongest since August 2001.

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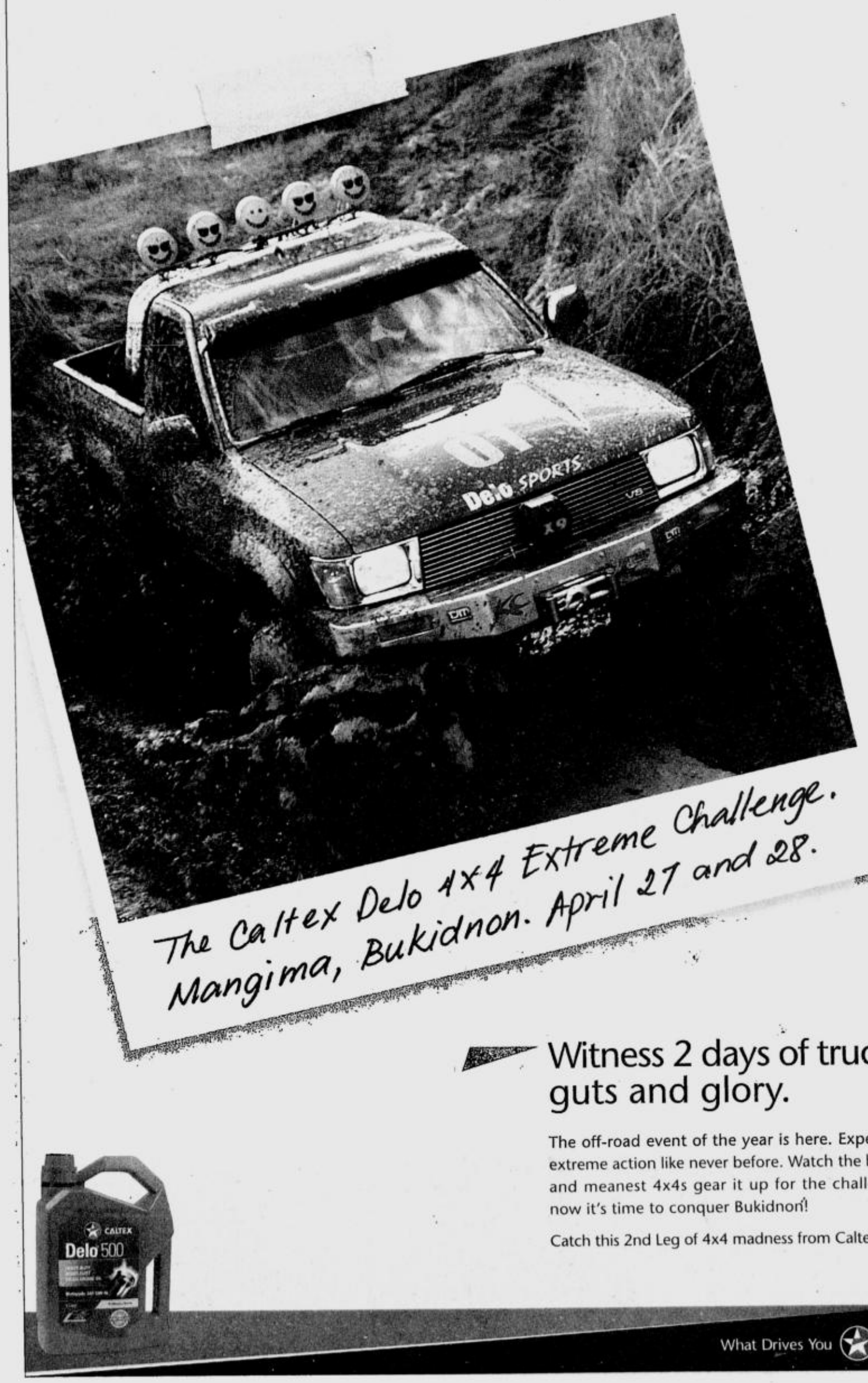
What Drives You



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Catch this 2nd Leg of 4x4 madness from Caltex Delo!

What Drives You CALTEX

Calpers may review withdrawal from RP, says finance secretary

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that US pension fund Calpers was open to reviewing its decision to withdraw from stock investments in the Philippines.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System said in February that it would no longer invest in equities in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines as the countries did not meet its new standards for emerging markets investments that include human rights considerations.

But the fund, one of the world's largest pension funds with $150 billion in assets, may take a second look at the Philippines, according to Camacho.

"I believe the basis of their decision to pull out from the Philippines was inaccurate, and they were open to reconsider the Philippines," he told reporters, saying he met Calpers officials last week.

He said the Department of Finance was preparing a package of information to be sent next week to the fund.

Officials at Calpers were not immediately available for comment.

The fund continues to invest in private equity and bonds in the four Asian countries.

Analysts in the region played down the longer-term significance of Calpers' decision to stay away from stocks in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The fund manages around $151 billion in assets, but its equity investments in Asia have been relatively small.

Reacting earlier to Calpers' withdrawal, Camacho said the Calpers decision "really doesn't affect us."

"If at all, it could be the (internationally traded) bonds that will be affected, (but) our bonds are strong."

The US fund's total investments in the Philippines stood at around $25 million.

SM Prime to build 5 shopping malls

SM PRIME Holdings Inc. said yesterday it would invest about P6 billion this year to build five new shopping malls.

SM Prime chief financial officer Jose Sio said the company and sister firm SM Investments Inc. had obtained $100 million in fresh loans from Citibank NA to boost their cash reserves.

SM Prime reported that its first-quarter net income should grow by 10 percent to 12 percent over the same period last year.

Full-year earnings should also grow by the same amount, Sio told reporters.

"First quarter figures are still being finalized, but initial indications show that we were able to sustain a double-digit increase over last year in the range of 10 percent to 12 percent," he said.

For the full year, "we expect the bottom line to grow 10 percent to 12 percent," he added.

SM Prime has a predictable rental stream, and the growth forecast by the company is in line with analyst estimates.

First-quarter figures have to be announced by May 15.

Review of Meralco contracts sought

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PRIVATE sector-led Citizens Review Commission on the IPPs has asked the government to investigate charges that Manila Electric Co.'s contracts with the National Power Corp. contain undue guarantees.

In a news statement, CRC-IPP commissioner Ma. Teresa Diokno-Pascual said her group reviewed some of Napocor's contract with utilities like Meralco and came up with "very disturbing" findings.

Some provisions of these contracts were, in fact, responsible for the cost of electricity in the country, now the second highest in Asia next only to Japan, Pascual said.

"The purchased power adjustment will continue to bleed the public dry as long as inefficient power suppliers continue to enjoy undue guarantees," she said.

She said the PPA was imposed on consumers because Napocor could not comply with its obligations under its contracts with independent power producers.

"Utilities like Meralco were also allowed to pass on these costs to their customers," Pascual said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, meanwhile, has reiterated that consumers are shouldering the costs of Meralco's supply deal with First Gas Power Corp. even if First Gas "never delivered a single kilowatt" to the utility.

PSBank says Q1 net rose 155% to P60M

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank, thrift subsidiary of No. 1 lender Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., posted a 155-percent increase in first-quarter profit to P59.7 million from a year earlier.

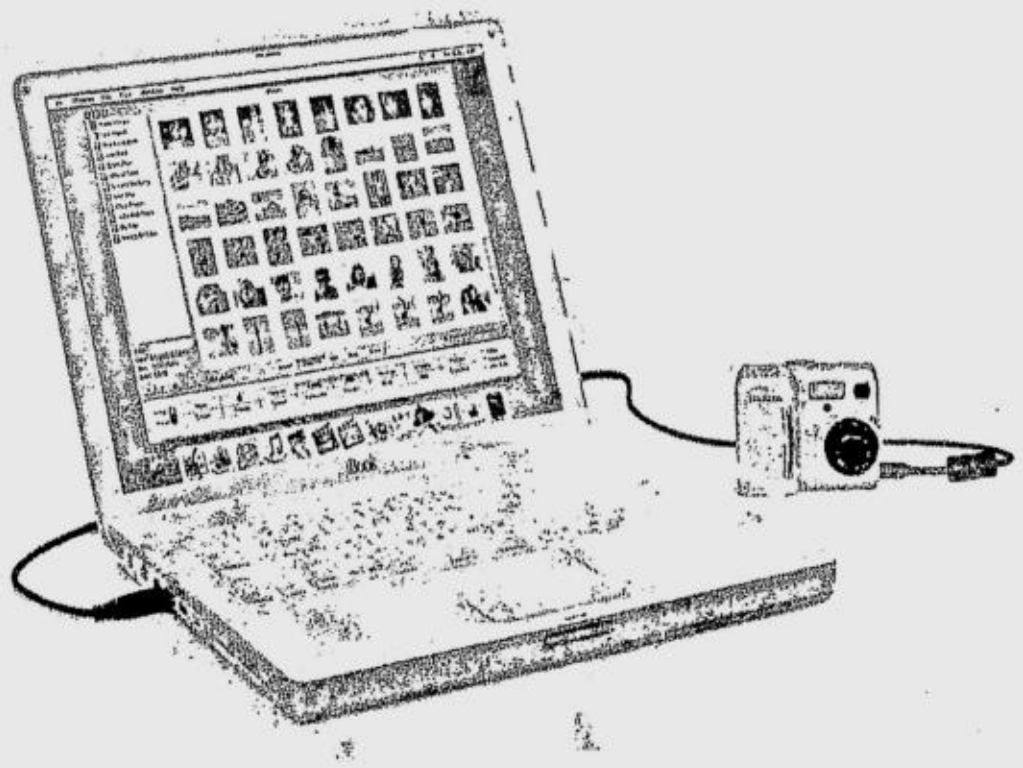
In a news briefing on Thursday, PSBank president Pascual Garcia said his bank was targeting a 31-percent hike in its net income this year to P230 million.

PSBank reported that its net income last year grew 44 percent to P174.7 million.

Garcia said he expected growth this year to come primarily from the consumer banking business, particularly mortgages and car loans.

He disclosed that the bank would invest as much as P70 million to migrate to a new system that would improve its deposit-taking and servicing capability. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Apple



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0595 Series of 2002

DISCLOSURES

LA TONDENA Distillers Inc. has repurchased 148,900 of its shares at P28 each and another 850,000 shares at P29 each.

• • •

GLOBAL Business Bank Inc. has confirmed that investors have shown interest in buying it but that its major shareholder, **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.**, has yet to enter into negotiations with any of them. Also, its annual stockholders' meeting, earlier reset to May 22, has again been postponed to a later date.

• • •

SM Prime Holdings Inc. has clarified that talks to purchase a property from **Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.** are still in preliminary stages, and that no specific terms have been agreed upon.

• • •

SPI Technologies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 3 p.m., at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. Stockholders as of April 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

• • •

ELECTED directors of **Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.** were Kasigod Jamias, Jose Juliano, Michael Leo Luna, Renato Magadia, Barbara Ann Migallos, Akihisa Nishina, Jose Perez, Tatang Tabrani, Tadashi Tanabashi, Kenichi Ugadawa and Edwin Umali.

• • •

CHINATRUST Commercial Bank Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17 with record date on May 20.

• • •

PANCAKE House Inc. has elected Martin Lorenzo as president of the company, replacing Isabel del Val who also resigned as director. The company's annual stockholders' meeting will be on June 28, 9 a.m., at its principal office in Lapanday Center, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati. Record date is on May 15. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	68	66.5	68	182,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37	37	35	35.5	911,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	38	38.5	192,300
Philippine National Bank	53	54	53	54	2,400
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	20,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22	21.5	21.5	56,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	195,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1080	1070	1075	31,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	17,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.55	2,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	640	600	640	15,260
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.041	0.041	4,800,000
Piltel	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.44	2,920,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	450,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	467.5	467.5	465	467.5	38,010
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	12,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25.5	25.5	24	24.5	73,000
Manila Electric Co. B	43	43	39.5	40	2,086,700
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	1,394,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	844,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	159,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	427,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	29.5	29.5	29	29	1,927,600
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	13,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47.5	45.5	47.5	300,800
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55	54.5	55	358,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	60,000
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	4,039,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	91,000
APC Group Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	20,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	11,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	3,570,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	920,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	253,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	530,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	80,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.74	76,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	140,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.83	7,340,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.68	0.68	160,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,250,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.3	1,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	11	11	11	11	31,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	4,080,000
Manila Jockey Club	13	13	13	13	3,300
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31	31	30.5	30.5	1,367,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	1,470
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	670	695	665	695	4,610
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	3,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0002	0.0004	0.0002	0.0004	200,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10 25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	7,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	6,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	7,995,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,590,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	12,209,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.055	900,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.04	1.04	170,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	7,395,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	30,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.043	0.043	14,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	12,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	370,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.046	600,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	56,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	34,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	800,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.15	800,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,689,060	86,047,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	277,938,950	306,971,670.00
PRO	34,429,000	133,739,500.00
Mining	41,360,000	1,472,200.00
OIL	102,840,000	740,960.00
GRAND TOTALS :	458,267,010	530,971,770.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	648.35	UP 0.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,788.16	DOWN 3.72
PRO	597.42	DOWN 0.62
Mining	1,294.70	UP 31.51
OIL	1.38	DOWN 0.11
All Shares Index	743.88	DOWN 2.98
Composite	1,323.96	DOWN 4.54

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 48; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 2,193

CURRENCIES

April 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.113214	1.000000	50.8290
Japan	Yen	0.008652	0.007772	0.3950
United Kingdom	Pound	1.620951	1.456100	74.0121
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142734	0.128218	6.5172
Switzerland	Franc	0.683288	0.613798	31.1987
Canada	Dollar	0.711137	0.638814	32.4703
Singapore	Dollar	0.614866	0.552334	28.0746
Australia	Dollar	0.605666	0.544070	27.6545
Bahrain	Dinar	2.952979	2.652661	134.8321
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296850	0.266660	13.5541
Brunei	Dollar	0.611320	0.549149	27.9127
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000107	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025769	0.023148	1.1766
UAE	Dirham	0.303097	0.272272	13.8393
Korea	Won	0.000865	0.000777	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.898300	45.6597
Brazil	Real	0.469909	0.422119	21.4559
Denmark	Kroner	0.134601	0.120912	6.1458
India	Rupee	0.022765	0.020450	1.0395
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.292951	0.263158	13.3761
Mexico	New Peso	0.119348	0.107210	5.4494
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500952	0.450005	22.8733
Norway	Kroner	0.131782	0.118380	6.0171
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018600	0.016708	0.8493
South Africa	Rand	0.102466	0.092045	4.6786
Sweden	Kroner	0.108261	0.097251	4.9432
Syria	Pound	0.025300	0.022727	1.1552
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032100	0.028835	1.4657
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001315	0.001181	0.0600

Execs name GenSan most competitive city in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GENERAL Santos City emerged as the country's best city for businessmen based on a joint private-government study on the competitiveness of the country's urban centers.

The Policy Center of the Asian Institute of Management (PC-AIM) and the Department of Trade and Industry study showed that Mindanao cities, led by GenSan and Davao, bested urban centers in the National Capital Region that fared poorly in spite of their strong economic and human resource base.

This prompted the PC-AIM and DTI to declare that "future development of the Philippines must focus on cities outside Metro Manila and that these cities must learn the shortcomings of the NCR to ensure their long-term sustainability."

GenSan obtained the highest rating among 33 cities surveyed last year while Quezon City was at the tailend among all cities surveyed. The PC-AIM downplayed the recent bombing in GenSan as an isolated incident as it stressed that the response of the city's leaders was more important to businessmen than the event itself.

GenSan also topped the list of mid-sized cities (non-metro cities with more than 200,000 population) with Bacolod and Baguio in second and third place, respectively.

Davao surprisingly topped the list of metro cities (urban centers in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao) with Cebu and Marikina in second and third place, respectively.

San Fernando, Pampanga was first among small cities (cities with population of less than 200,000) followed by Tagaytay and San Fernando, La Union.

The cities were rated based on their linkages and accessibility; the dynamism of the local economy; quality of human resources; quality of life of residents; responsiveness of local government; cost competitiveness; and infrastructure. The results came from a survey of businessmen from the cities and the data was further validated by inputs from local government units.

Manufacturing output up 2.2%

By Doris C. Dumlao

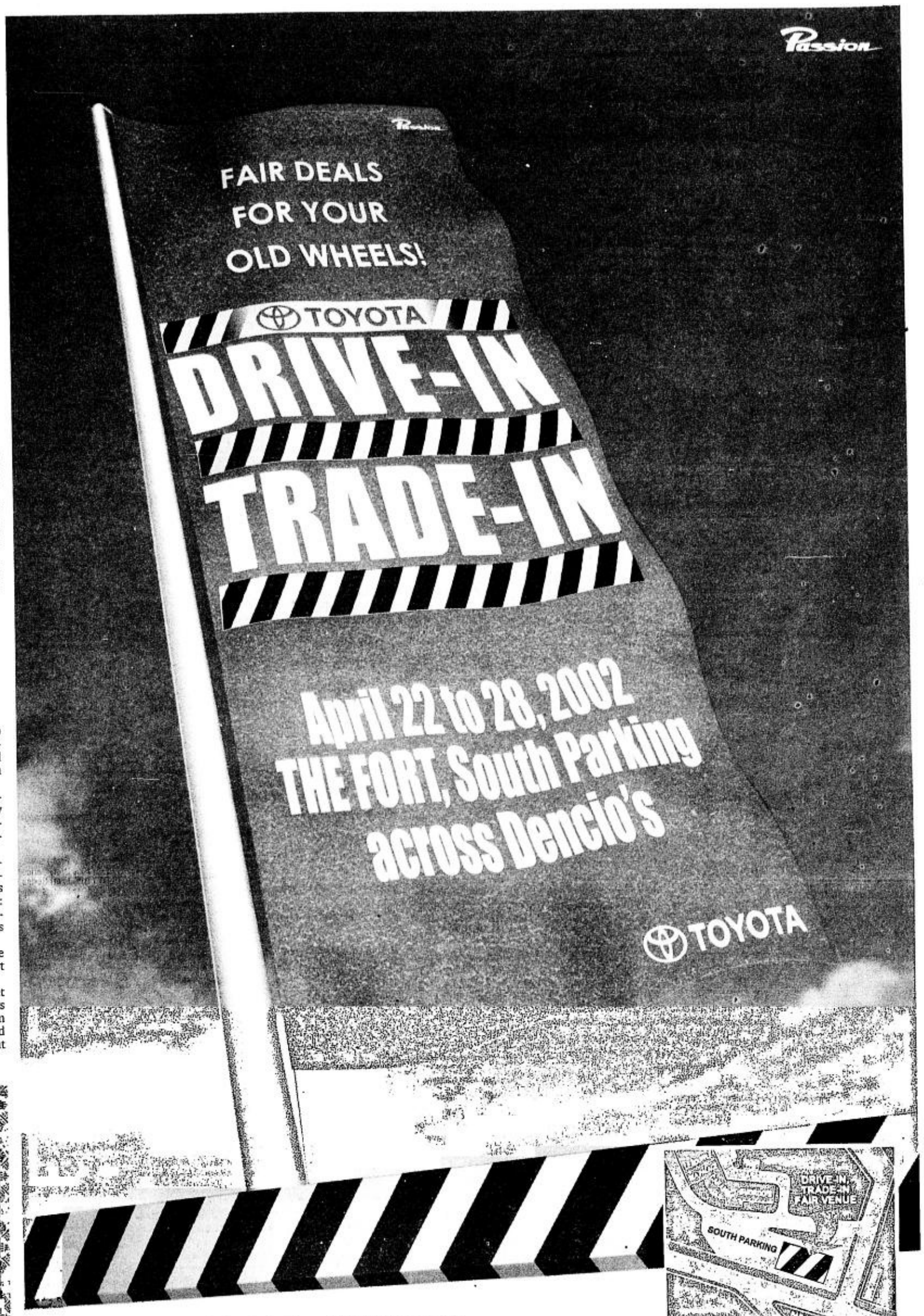
THE COUNTRY's manufacturing output picked up by 2.2 percent in February from a year ago, reversing the slowdown seen in the last 11 months and starting the momentum for a better contribution to economic growth in the months ahead.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the volume of production by key manufacturing sectors for the month finally registered a positive growth compared to the 1.3-percent contraction in January.

The rebound was led by the 83-percent volume growth by the footwear and wearing apparel manufacturers, followed by other sectors which also registered double-digit increases: electrical machinery (43 percent), food manufacturing (17.4 percent), and chemical products (11.6 percent).

The other sectors that posted volume gains were the basic metals, wood/wood products, transport equipment and publishing/printing sectors.

On the other hand, among those that had yet to recover from the slump were manufacturers of leather, paper/paper products and petroleum whose respective year-on-year volume dropped by 39.6 percent, 28.4 percent and 27.9 percent in February.



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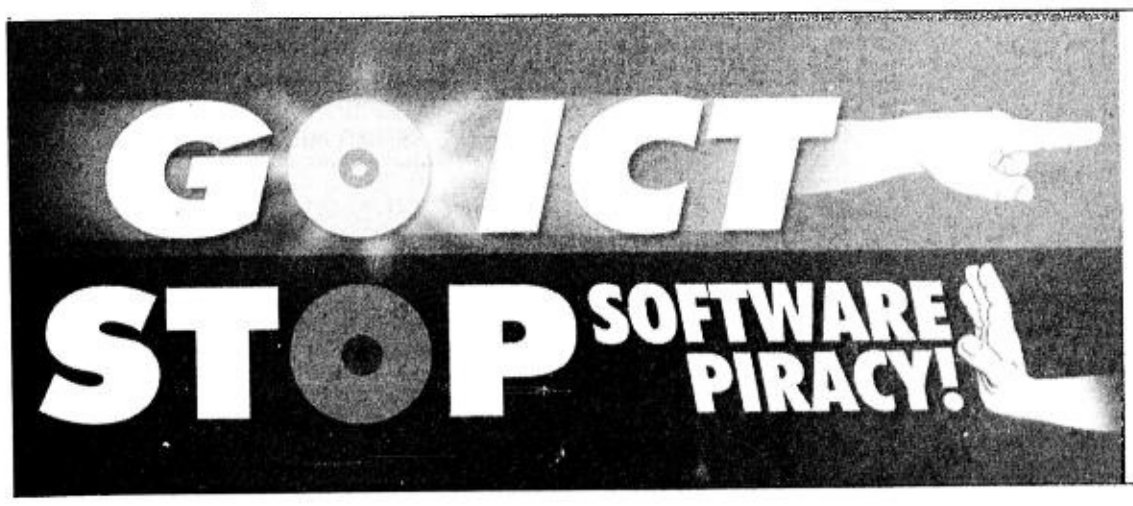

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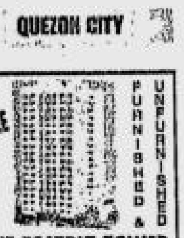
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY



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ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
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B-4 BUYING / INVESTING COMPARE & CONSIDER:
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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO nr Edsa, North Rd 2br w/Attic 7237351 4156141

3BR 2TB H2Osys grge sec Metro Hghts Subd Proj 8 9312089 / 09202330602

Condo 2BR 1TB Prkg Nr Edsa SM North 8,450/mo 0916-4833464

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Nr SM CT a/c new 9271021

NR UST, U-BELT 7327003

BEDSPACE

5 Males 0917-0490740/6105011

Mkt.Bldg M/F Free Utily 8906374

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NISSAN

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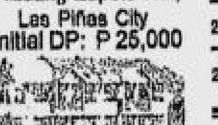
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

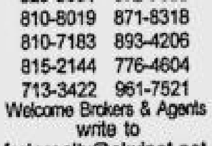
VARIOUS AREAS

VILLA FELIZA HOMES Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City Initial DP: P 25,000



COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES Habay, Bacoor, Cavite Initial DP: P 15,000



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829-5081 872-7603
810-8019 871-8318
810-7183 893-4206
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fortereaIty@skyinet.net

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

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HONDA

•HONDA VTEC '96 MODEL• Color: Light Blue Manual 60,474 Mileage Hardly Used Good as New Very Handsome Call 8086275 or 09178480245 Ask for Rommel or Dang

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L300/Vans 578-6917(Roger)

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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2% w/o Taking Car 8080833

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FEMALE

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

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MASAHISTA 20 Above w/-w/o Exp. good moral T 751-0040

NURSE for Preschool and Grade School Contact The M.I. School • Tel.# 433-4049

TEXTILE SECRETARY 22-28yrs old Col. Grad. w/exp. fluent in Eng&Chin 736 Juan Luna St. Divisoria 2429012-13

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BSEED, BSE, COL. PROF Tel. # 7246750; 9265049.

CARE GIVER T5280722

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•HAIRDRESSER• CALL 895-6031 L2011

•VETERINARIAN• w/ or w/o experience 8175511

★WANTED OFFICE STAFF★ Contact EUGENE 9134470

OFC STAFF 9134470 WENDEL

Part-Time P.E. Teacher PLS. CALL M.I. SCHOOL Tel.# 433-4949 • 928-0143

• VETERINARIAN • w/ or w/o experience 8175511

WANTED: OFFICE SECRETARY for General Services Grad. any 4 yr. course proficient in English (written and oral) single /comp. literate Apply in person at 67 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City Tel.#8187826/ 8443893

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

GARAGE SALE April 27 - 28 (8-7pm) ANTIQUES, FRUN, JARS, PAINTINGS, MORE. 21 Archilles St. Acropolis Subd. Libis Quezon City(frt clubhse)

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• May 06, 2002 •
All unredeemed articles up to December 1-31, 2001 in the following branches:
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
•Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre St. 11AM
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
•108 Legaspi St. Mkt 2PM
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

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•Travel N Earn From Home• earn-and-travel.com 8531008 (0917)8101851

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Mall/Bazaar Spaces 633-9295/633-9662/638-9608

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FOR SALE (TRUCKING BUSINESS) 4container Trucks with chassies Intl's all excellent cond 1000m² lot with elec+water good drivers/dispatcher & business II wanted. Fully operational P4M Tel.4751956 / 9489154 / 09194404226 / 09193060497

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Results-oriented Company in Binondo is seeking **Male/Female** candidates, 25-35 years old, preferably single, who can address the need to complete its sales team in Metro Manila. Those who have experience in Sales are a priority. College graduate/College undergrad can also apply.

For interested parties please apply personally with your Biodata with 2x2 picture and NBI clearance on May 2-3, 2002 at No. 545-547 Sto. Cristo St., Binondo, Manila.

Kindly look for **Ms. Christine Escano**.

Save 10-30%
in Gasoline or Diesel Fuel

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- IMPROVES COMBUSTION EFFICIENCY
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Pending IPO/Trademark Application #4-2002-0003269
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Tel. Nos.: 757-3122 / 750-3054 / 729-8382

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Unemployed?
Dont know where to go? Why settle for Min. wage when you can earn P50T/mo. &UP! Cutbring this ad for FREE briefing on April 25,26,27 @ 2pm or 5pm Suite 731 Mega Plaza, ADB Ave. cor. Garnet Rd. Ortigas Ctr. Pasig (Back Robinson Galleria)

WE BUY
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Agrarian Reform 10-Yr. Bond 643-5529; 0917-7922363 Ver

Work fr Home w/ Travel 8376068

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an estate of the late MARCIAL DE GUZMAN has been extra-judicially settled by way of an affidavit of self-adjudication executed by his sole heir Margarita de Guzman on 04/03/02 per Doc No. 500, Page No. 100, Book No. 11 Series 2002 of Notary Public Atty Renator V. Peralta of Marikina City.
(PDI-April 13, 20&27,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the Public that Passport No EE705706 issued to FRANCISCO B. DEBULOS JR with reentry Visa was lost April 16, 2002 at the LTO QC.
(PDI- 4/20, 27 & 5/4,2002)

PERSONAL

Children Dress
From Indonesia SALE NOW! 150 each all must go! 535-7366

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for favor granted.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

FACULTY OF PHARMACY (including MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY and BOTANY)

The Faculty of Pharmacy is in need of faculty members who can teach and deliver courses effectively and efficiently. Interested applicants must have a Masterate or a Doctorate degree in any of the following:

Pharmacy — *Computer Science*
Chemistry — *Mathematics*
Biochemistry — *Physics*

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with supporting documents to:

Ms. Priscilla M. Torres
Asst. Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy
Dean's Office, 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.
University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila, Philippines
Telefax: (0632) 731-4040, (0632) 731-3101, local 8223.

Deadline of application is on May 03, 2002.

Republic of the Philippines
BONDOC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Management Office
Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed for the following projects:

1. Rehabilitation of 14 kms. Farm to Market Road in Buenavista, Quezon
2. Irrigation Projects a) Brgy. Sta. Maria Ibaba, Gen. Luna, Quezon
   b) Brgy. San Nicolas, Macalelon, Quezon
   c) Brgy. Cambuga, Mulanay, Quezon

Prequalification forms, complete details and particulars of the abovementioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO, Governor Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 from **May 14-16, 2002**.

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liaison Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before **May 17, 2002**.

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bidding conference on **May 27, 2002** at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEPRIANO J. PUNZALAN**
PBAC-Chairman

(PDI - April 26, 27 & 28, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF MARIKINA
OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

CERTIFIED LIST OF TAX DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTIES

DECLARED OWNER AND ADDRESS	TAX DEC. NOS.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	YEARS DELINQUENT	TOTAL TAX DUE
REYES, LEOVIGILDO & TERESITA 9-B Venezuela St., Loyola Grand Villas Malanday, Marikina City	D-005-04679	Loyola Grand Villas Malanday	1997-2001	115,805.27
REYES, LEOVIGILDO & TERESITA 9-B Venezuela St., Loyola Grand Villas,	D-005-00277	Loyola Grand Villas Malanday	1997-2001	26,266.00
MENDOZA, RUFO M. 123 Pasadena, Pasay City	D-012-9720	Loyola Grand Villas Concepcion 1	1988-2001	101,912.20
OCAMPO, OSCAR L. 3 Columbia St., Loyola Grand Villas, Barangka, Marikina City	D-001-00054 D-001-00055	Loyola Grand Villas Barangka	1994 2nd qtr-2001 1995-2001	205,552.29
JAVIER, CELIA F. Liverpool St., Provident Village, J. dela Peña, Marikina City	D-004-02336	Provident Village Jesus dela Peña	1994-2001	104,917.14
FLORENCIO CELIA C. ETAL L-2 B-33 Liverpool St., Provident Village, J. dela Peña, Marikina City	D-004-01328	Provident Village Jesus dela Peña	1997-2001	10,918.80
EUSEBIO, MARILOU ETAL 126 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City	D-011-02757 D-011-02758	Provident Village Tañong	1998-2001 1994-2001	313,356.84
EDGEWATER REALTY & DEV. CORP. 26 Yan Buren Northern Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	D-012-01290 D-012-09931	Concepcion	1986-2001 1988-2001	9,003,832.65
INTEGRATED CREDIT & CORP. SERV. 77th Floor Citibank Center Paseo de Roxas Makati City	D-02537 D-02538	Tanong	1995-2001 1995-2001	172,083.77
PASCUAL, CESAR A. & GEOSLE G. L-16 B-1 Venezuela St. Loyola Grand Villas Marikina City	D-00203 D-00204	Tanong	1994-2001 1994-2001	191,933.82
DELA MECED, NORBERTO JR. T. Cor. Pero & B. Soliven I LGV Barangka, Marikina City	D-001-00100	Barangka	1998-2001	101,351.25
DELA MECED, NORBERTO JR. T. 34 cor. Pero & B. Soliven I LGV Barangka Marikina City	D-001-00101	Barangka	1998-2001	320,556.79
SANTOS, RENATO V. 8 Paraguay cor. B. Soliven II LGV Tanong Marikina City	D-011-00087 D-011-00088	Tanong	1997-2001 1997-2001	258,814.27
TREYES, NIXON L. & ROSIE L. SPS 1 Guatemala St. LGV Tanong, Marikina City	D-011-00249 D-011-00250	Tanong	1998-2001 1998-2001	141,114.06
ROSMIL REALTY & DEV. CORP. 50 Ilang-ilang St. De Castro Homesite, Pasig City	D-001-00176	Barangka	1988-2001	164,784.96

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7160, after the expiration of the time required to pay the real property tax, the City Treasurer is charged to enforce collection on delinquent taxes and may avail of the civil remedies by administrative action through distraint of goods, chattels, or effects and other personal property of whatever character, including stocks and other securities, debts, credits, bank accounts and interest in and right to personal property, or by levy upon real property and interest in or rights to real property and by judicial action. At any time before the distraint of personal property, payment of the tax with surcharges, interests and penalties may be made at the rate of two (2%) percent per month interest on the unpaid amount or a fraction thereof, until the delinquent tax shall have been fully paid and unless the tax, surcharges and penalties are paid before the expiration of the year for which the tax is due, except when the notice of assessment or special levy is contested administratively or judicially pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 3. Title Two Book II of the Code, the delinquent real property will be sold at public auction and the title to the property will be vested in the purchaser, subject, however, to the right of the delinquent owner of the property or any person having legal interest therein to redeem the property within one (1) year from the date of sale

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

CELIA C. DE GUZMAN
Asst. City Treasurer

NOTE:
In case payment has already been made, please inform the Real Property Tax Section of the City Treasurer's Office, Marikina C

(PDI--April 18 & 27, 2002)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808
loc. 514, 516
899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425
(Telefax)
CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Telephone 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC SMALL B - General Engineering to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE UPGRADING OF LINED CANAL ALONG TUBLIJON-BASECAMP ROAD AT BGPF under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-065

The work calls for the supply of labor, supervision, equipment, tools, and other services necessary for the upgrading of lined canal along Tublijon-Basecamp Road at Bac-Man Geothermal Production Field, Tublijon, Sorsogon City.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Nas M. Corcuera) starting April 26, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PhP 100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of May 10, 2002.

Bid dcuments shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting May 17, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 23, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Complex, PNOC-EDC Bac-Man Geothermal Production Field, Sorsogon City. Site inspection to follow thereafter

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of May 31, 2002 than to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) ESTER R. GUERZON
Manager, Operations Services Division

(PDI - April 27, 2002)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the followir requirements:

A. SUPPLY OF LABOR and MATERIALS for the INSTALLATION OF POWER FACTOR CORRECTION (CAPACITOR BANK) (RE-BID)
Project No.: WO-02-016
Bid Deadline: **May 23, 2002** (RE-BID)

B. RACK SERVERS, DESKTOP COMPUTERS, LASER PRINTERS
Project No.: CD200204/05
Bid Deadline: **May 21, 2002**

C. COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) CYLINDERS
(Operating Pressure: 3672 psi/255 bar - minimum at 15°C)
Project No.: ER200205
Bid Deadline: **May 23, 2002**

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain forms upon payment a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before May **10, 2002**. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or ... parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids ... to any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate Management Services

(PDI - April 27 & 28, 2002)

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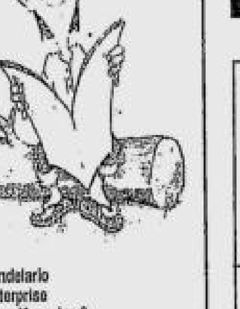
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding



in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 985-2691

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INQUIRER **TRiViA**
By BONG BARRAMEDA

On the button

Q. Why do men button from the right, women from the left?

A. Custom. Men usually dressed themselves, and because men are right-handed, buttoning from the right made ... Also, long before the pistol or revolver were invented ... weapon carried by men was the sword or saber, the ... hanging from the belt on the left side. In order that the jackets they wore could easily be unbuttoned by the left ... and allow the right hand to unsheathe the sword freely ... easily, their apparel should be buttoned on the right. On the other hand, women who could afford the expensive buttons of the day were more often dressed by maids, and maids found it easier to work from their right, the wearer's left. Tailors complied, and the convention stuck.

For the Record. Buttons did not originate as clothes fasteners. They were decorative, jewelry-like disks sewn on men's and women's clothing. The earliest types date from about 2000 B.C. and were unearthed at archeological digs in the Indus Valley in Southern Asia. It was only in the 13th century that the modern, functional button was invented in Europe.

Take a Tip. Got a grease stain on your dress? Rub chalk on the grease spot, let it absorb the oil, then brush off. If the stain lingers, rub chalk into it again before laundering.

WORD WATCH

Tisa : from the Spanish *tiza*, 'chalk.'

PDI--April 27, 2002

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You touched people's lives
with your wit, humor and wisdom.
Your legacy will live on in our hearts.
To our beloved daddy and grandpa,
we will dearly miss you...

Prof. ZACARIAS G. DE VERA

Born March 28, 1900

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 25, 2002 at the age of 102.

Former Superintendent of Division of Public Schools,
Region 1 and Educator, National University

His daughters **Caroline** and **Cynthia**; his grandchildren **Jacqueline, Lyndon, Yvonne** and **Rachel**; his great grandsons **Cholo** and **Toniko**; in-laws **Tony, Meg, Steve** and **Mike**; brother and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Retiro St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Sunday, April 28, 2002, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

EDITHA GUARIN NOVIDO

President - Mandaon Parish Pastoral Council
Former - Teacher, Principal & District Supervisor

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 23, 2002
at the age of 74.

Her loving children **Babes, Boy, Malou, Norma** & **Diana**; her grandchildren **Jonah Marie, Ian Marlowe, Hazel, Nova, Ricky Boy, Zoe, Katkat, Djanllo** & **Dane**, relatives and friends request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Mandaon, Masbate.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 2, 2002 at Mandaon Public Cemetery.

"Thank you
for the gift of life,
for the blessing to be
among those who know You..."

Felicidad Quirino Eugenio vda. de Lamug

has peacefully joined our Creator on April 25, 2002 at the age of 91.

Her husband **Cosme F. Lamug** (†); sisters **Alma** and **Pacita**; children **Nita** and **Neo, Len** (†) and **Linda, Auring** and **Homer, Naty, Ludy** and **Chris, Peter** and **Sally, Terry** and **Hilda**; grandchildren **Gabby, Nina** and **Andrew, Norman** and **Sherry, Janet** and **Jacek, Neil, Gerboy** and **Trina, Ailea** and **Edmund, David, Jeffrey, Andreau, Philip** and **Lorvina, Tanya, Mia, Morris, Carlo, Lilli-Ann** and **Lelet**; great grandchildren **Iya, Sandra, Adu, Colin, Ethan, Cole, Pajee** and **Paolo** love her and request for your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lord's Chapel, Sitio Alto, 404 P. Guevarra, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 28, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the necrological services at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lord's Chapel.

... Let me enter Your
Heavenly Home to receive
Your final gift of grace
to be near You forever."

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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101 years

We request prayer for

Alejandro A. Villano, Jr.

who peacefully died on April 25, 2002
at the age of 70.

His remains lie in state at
St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 1, 2002, 3:00 p.m.
at North Cemetery.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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Gary Valenciano wows 'em at Germany's Musikmesse 2002

OPM superstar and Sennheiser microphone artist Gary Valenciano brought his magic touch and wowed audiences in Frankfurt, Germany during the recent Musikmesse 2002 held at the Frankfurt Messe (convention center) March 13 to 17. Musikmesse is billed as the world's largest annual exhibition of musical instruments and pro audio equipment, drawing thousands in attendance each year.

The Hanover-based Sennheiser company is one of the most respected names in the pro audio industry, manufacturing microphones, headphones and wireless equipment found in the world's top stages and recording studios.

Traveling with an entourage that included his long-time backup band Powerplay and top sound engineer Jaime Godinez, the singer/songwriter/musician performed at Sennheiser's international distributor party at the "Live Aus Dem Sudbahnhof" performance hall and at the Sennheiser exhibition at the Frankfurt Messe during the fair, the first Philippine artist ever to perform during the trade fair's long history.

Though understandably apprehensive about performing before the international crowd, Gary and Powerplay had the audience up on its feet, cheering wildly, and requesting encores at the end of their dynamic set.

Prior to performing, Sennheiser held a small press conference for the international music press, introducing Gary V and the Gary V microphone project. The Sennheiser Evolution series e825s microphone is marketed in the Philippines as the Gary V signature microphone, the only artist in the world with the distinct honor. A project between Valenciano and Sennheiser, a portion of the proceeds are donated to Unicef, where Gary V serves as a special Philippine spokesperson.

During the press conference, Gary V was introduced by none other than Sennheiser president Rolf Meyer, who described the Gary V microphone project as a "very special project from a very special artist."

The previous week, the Gary V project was awarded as the best special project for the year at an international Sennheiser distributors meeting in Berlin, beating out other projects fronted by other Sennheiser artists such as Madonna, Sting, and the Backstreet Boys.

Gary also visited and performed at the Neumann booth, where the world's best recording microphones were displayed.

Sennheiser products are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Yupangco Electronics Corp.

Sennheiser microphones, headsets, and wireless products—including the Gary V signature mic—will be on sale at all Yamaha Music and Perfect Pitch stores during the annual "Summer Swing Out Sale" featuring great deals on instruments and pro audio until April 30.

SLEEP AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In celebration of International Sleep Well Day, Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines and the Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center (CSDC) of St. Luke's Medical Center recently launched a sleep awareness campaign dubbed 'Open Your Eyes to Sleep'. The lay education program aims to raise public consciousness on the importance of sleep to health and productivity. At the launch were (seated, from left) Dr. Ruth Marie Divinagracia, CSDC consultant, Dr. Ma. Felicidad Soto, CSDC head, Dr. Ruby Manalastas, CSDC consultant, Dr. Merci Gappi, CSDC consultant, Dr. Alma Casareo, medical director of Sanofi-Synthelabo Phils, and Chiles Mendez, Stilnox senior product manager. Standing were Marc Yates (left), Isis managing director for Southeast Asia and Chit Reyes, central nervous system marketing manager of Sanofi-Synthelabo Phils.

Richwell's Summer Trade Show kicks off in cool fashion

True to its commitment in bringing world-class toys to Filipino kids, Richwell Trading Corp. recently held its Summer Trade Show with the theme "Cabana Cool", the first of its biannual tradeshows, introducing its new line of products. These are meant for the provincial and Metro Manila clients to see Richwell's new offerings.

"We call Richwell a children's company," says Mae T. Yao, Richwell's marketing manager, "because we distribute toys, shoes, safety and infant products." Richwell Trading Corp. is a major licensee of companies from the United States, Italy, and Japan.

This year Richwell is highlighting the Pigeon's Baby Wipes and Safety First in infant goods. "Not very many people use it, that's why we want to promote the safety aspects for the kids," Yao says. Among Safety First's products Richwell distributes are cabinet locks, safety plugs, and "Baby-on-Board" stick-ons, multi-purpose latches, corner cushions, and security gates to safeguard the babies from certain areas in the house.

For the kids, Yao promises that the kiddie market will see toys that the family can all enjoy. "Everything is about interaction and action play," she says.

Boys of all ages will surely enjoy the Battle Spin Warriors. It is the modern version of our very own trumpo. This new craze boasts of battle gears much like you've seen in science fiction films: there's a spin dish, battle dome, launcher, and of course the tops. The spin dish replaces the rope in Pinoy trumpo.

For those who love collecting trading cards, Z-Cards' are for you. Z-Cards is the ultimate puzzle card with 3D-depth pictures and movable parts that makes it more exciting. Z-Cards is designed to help kids develop their creative minds while collecting the parts and at the same time solving the puzzle.

For the fashion-passionate gals, Mattel launches its very own Diva Starz. The hip, hi-techi-delic dolls are designed with infrareds which makes them possible to interact with other diva dolls, and in some instances, the girls who play with it. It also has sensors that recognize what the doll wears, an internal clock which remind the divas of their activities, microphones that listen to kids, hair sensors, and a lot more. But of course the Diva Starz have a passion for fashion. Dressed in groovy and update fashion trends, Diva Starz come in different attitudes: from sporty to rugged. They also have their own set of accessories.

Will the immortal Mattel doll Barbie be left behind? This year she goes Cabana Cool with Barbie Inflatable. Girls can choose from fashionable Barbie Cabana Cool! Beach balls, arm rings, swimsuits, hats, and accessories. A Barbie collection will not be complete without the cosmetics. Barbie's latest cosmetic products include body spray, cologne, blush on, lipstick, lip gloss, face powder, and lotions.

For Garfield fans, the ever-hungry yet funny cat has found a new home in the Philippines through Richwell. Paws Inc., the United States licensor of Garfield, appointed Richwell Trading Corp. as the licensed agent of Garfield merchandise in the Philippines. Expect more of Garfield in your favorite stores nationwide.

If your kid is into miniature car racing there is the Hotwheels Tracks System. With its newest Starter Kit, Hotwheels boasts of its race and roll wild-upside down loop track. Hotwheels is much like the Megablocks where fathers and sons can design their own racetrack.

Toddlers now can wear comfortable leather shoes from Chicco. Designed with unique style and features, Chicco shoes are safe and ideal for the baby's tiny toes. Chicco shoes styles come from Italy.

May is Guidance Month

GUIDANCE counselors in the country celebrate May as the Guidance Month. This is the time for them to fully appreciate their profession in various ways. The highlight of this year's celebration is the Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association's annual convention-workshop from May 15 to 17 at the Skyline Riverbend Hotel, Riverbank Center, Marikina City. The theme of the convention is "Counselor Empowerment Through Professional Identity", which is very appropriate in line with PGCA's effort toward professionalization. Reservations can be made through Postal Money Order payable to the Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association, a check payable to PGCA (include bank charge of P100 for regional checks, or through a cash deposit to PNB PGCA current account no. 2758301756 and send to PGCA the duplicate deposit slip. For inquiries on seminar fees, and other details, call Dr. Benedicta O. Lascano at 929-5835 (e-mail benedicta.lascano@upd.edu.ph) or Leo J. Capeding at 523-1641 (e-mail roseze@info.com.ph.

BITS & Clips

Writing a book seminar

THE ATV Speakers Network is conducting a program titled "How to Write and Publish Your Book" today, April 27, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Topics include: Why Write a Book, Getting Started, Deciding on the Subject Matter, Determining Readership, Gathering Materials, Writing Clearly, Drafting, Revising and Editing the Book, Financing the Project, Copyright Rules and Procedures, and Marketing the Book. For details call Liezl or Josie at 896-8790.

Ateneo de Tuguegarao homecoming

THE OFFICERS, through Dr. Vicente Valdepeñas, president of the association and Central Bank Monetary Board Member, is calling all Ateneo de Tuguegarao alumni to a homecoming and reunion at the Ivory Hotel in Tuguegarao City on April 27 and 28. Hosts for this year are class 1952 (golden jubilarians) and class 1962 (Ruby jubilarians). For details call Bong at 523-3983 or Freddie at 741-0611. Don't miss this rare chance in your lifetime to reminisce on the old glorious and fun-filled days with former mentors, long unseen friends and classmates, and get to know alumni from other classes. Activities include a motorcade around the city, laying of the wreath on the tomb of Bishop Constance Jurgens, a concelebrated Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Piat, a visit to the site of the new Ateneo de Tuguegarao campus, a Blue Eagles Dinner Party and Awarding Rites.

CDAP, CDG hold waste management seminar

THE CARL Duisberg Association of the Philippines (CDAP), alumni association of former CDG scholars to Germany, in cooperation with the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft Asean Regional Office (CDGRKO), the Recycling Movement of the Philippines (RMP), the office of the mayor of Cadiz City, Negros Occidental and Maharlika Village Islamic Foundation shall sponsor the "Solid Waste Management Seminar" on April 27 at Maharlika Village, Taguig. Reference materials, as well as snacks and lunch shall be provided participants. For more information, call Jeck Benavidez at 642-1770 or April Al-Raschid at 633-8378.

Aklan marks 46th founding year

SUMMER just got even grander this April in Aklan as the fun province celebrates its 46th foundation day. The province that is home to Boracay and the Ati-Atihan festival is once more the appropriate venue for people from all walks of life to enjoy the season's revelry. Aside from these attractions, you can also find other exciting places in Aklan like the Tinagong Dagat beach in Batan, or the Javili Falls in Tangalan, where there are seven basins arranged in tiers, the highest of which is about 100 meters high. There's also Ingus-Ingus Hill in Buruanga on the West Coast, an elevated mass of rocks overlooking the sea on three sides with a cave underneath. As part of its foundation day celebrations, Aklan will also play host to "Symphony of Summer", a two-hour musical concert headlined by the UST Symphony Orchestra and Anna Fegi scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 27 at the Boracay White Beach. Other guests include tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and soprano Rachelle Gerodias.

Networld's family summer escapade

IF YOU'RE aiming for family pleasure and relaxation this summer, Networld Hotel offers and alternative home with "Family Summer Escapade" for only P2,002 net with full amenities for the whole family to truly enjoy. Consider an overnight stay in an Executive Room, a set breakfast and sauna for two adults and two kids, plus up to 5 p.m. late check-out privileges. Offer is valid until April 30. Networld Hotel is located along Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City. For reservations, call 536-5828 or 536-7777 local 102.

Course on int'l women's rights

FOR THREE consecutive years, the Women and Gender Institute (Wagi) of Miriam College has successfully organized summer workshops on women's human rights. This year, Wagi is inviting participants from the academe, national agencies and local government units, NGOs and representatives from Congress to take part in the 4th Summer Course on International Women's Human Rights 2002. The event will be held at the Audio-Visual Rooms of Miriam College from May 6 to 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further inquiries, call Joanne Barriga or Grace Jimenez of Wagi at 435-9229 or 927-2421, local 343, or e-mail wagi@mc.edu.ph.

TBI DEALERS APPRECIATION NIGHT

Trendway Builders Inc., an importer of construction materials such as Hans Laminated Flooring, Unika Floor Care Products, Stylex Toilet Partitions and Timberco Metro Moulded Door, recently held an appreciation dinner at the China Pearl Restaurant at the Robinsons Galleria in honor of its dealers. Shown is Edmund Lee (general manager of TBI) presenting the certificate for the most outstanding dealer to Nonoy de Dios (branch manager of Timber1 located in MC Depot, Makati).

QUARTERMILE SIZZLES ANEW

The 3rd leg of Shell-Prospeed's Quartermile Championship Drag Racing drew to an exciting conclusion April 13 as 65 racers from across the country pushed their machines to the limit for championship points. Dominating the race were veteran drag teams ATI Racing, MSF Autoworks, Tony Llames Racing, R-Mode and Bagspeed. The fastest time of the day was achieved by Dondi Montecillo of Racing Zone on his lightened Civic Hatchback, as he clocked in an astonishing 12.49 seconds. Montecillo won both the Quick 8 and Pro Class A categories. The other winners of the Pro Class events were Raul Dungog (Pro Class A), Dhom Francisco (Pro Class C) and Joseph de Dios of MSF bagging the Pro Class D category. In the Fun Classes, Jan Thomann of Bagspeed won in the All-Honda category, John Chua of MSF dominating the All-Turbo and Jem Querimit of Bagspeed winning the All-Motor category. Quartermile is sponsored by Shell, ATI Diesel, ZF Transmissions, Sherwin Williams Paint, Eibach, Nodalo's, Goma King, Karcher, Fremuff, Auto Industriya and Drag Racing Pinoy.

ALC CONTINUES LOZADA TRADITION

The ALC Swimming School was founded by Allan Lozada Coscolluela, grandson of the late Capt. Catalino D. Lozada. Lozada founded the Lozada Swimming Schools and produced Olympian and Asian Games medalist and current Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain. Allan was the first instructor trained by Lozada in the late '60s. It was Allan who continued what his grandfather started, and has subsequently taught his students not just to swim but to bring out their best. His grandfather used to say 'great swimmers are made, not born.' Allan (standing left) is now teaching basic swimming (freestyle, diving, treading and dog paddle), water safety (back float) and advance lessons (butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle) for all ages. The venues of the ALC Swimming School are at the Waterfun Resort in Dahlia Street, BIR Village, Quezon City, at the Amoranto Pool in A. Roces Avenue, Quezon City, and the main office in Sandejas Street, Tambo, Parañaque City. For inquiries, call 853-2135 or 826-2397.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

CEREBRAL PALSY

A highly misunderstood disorder

By Charles E. Buban

Inspiring stories of how a child with cerebral palsy ended up becoming a bank vice president or how a wheelchair-bound Californian with cerebral palsy was able to earn his blue belt (three notches below the coveted black belt) in karate may sound like fairy tales.

But they did happen, and in fact when you visit the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc. (PCPI) in Makati you will hear more such success stories and how the center was able to change the lives of more than 12,000 children and adults with cerebral palsy for the past 46 years.

LLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

"Cerebral palsy is one of the most misunderstood disorders that afflicts children and adults," says PCPI chair Lewis Edwards. "Worldwide statistics show that two in every 1,000 people have this condition, which means that in the Philippines we have an estimated 150,000 individuals with cerebral palsy," he reveals.

Cerebral palsy is a broad term used to describe a group of chronic disorders impairing control of body movement that appear in the first few years of life. A faulty development or damage to motor areas in the brain disrupts the brain's ability to adequately control movement and posture.

Varying symptoms

Symptoms of cerebral palsy vary and may even change over time in one patient. A person with cerebral palsy may have difficulty with fine motor tasks such as writing or cutting with scissors, experience trouble maintaining balance and walking, or be affected by involuntary movements such as writhing of the hands and drooling. Some have seizures or mental impairment.

"Contrary to common belief, however, cerebral palsy does not always cause profound handicaps," stresses Dr. Francis Xavier Dimalanta, also from the PCPI. "While a child with severe cerebral palsy might be unable to walk and need extensive, lifelong care, those with mild (symptoms) might only be slightly awkward and require no special assistance at all." he explains.

He clarifies that cerebral palsy is not contagious, neither is it passed on from one generation to the next.

"Although at this time, it cannot be cured, scientific research continues to yield improved treatments and methods for its prevention," says Dimalanta.

Rehab

The PCPI is the country's foremost institution dealing exclusively and extensively for the rehabilitation of people with cerebral palsy. It has a number of facilities run by professionals and volunteers and is supported through donations.

"There is no single approach in dealing with cerebral palsy since the disorder is not caused by a single factor like certain diseases. It is a group of disorders that is related but probably have different causes. When we try to uncover the cause of cerebral palsy in an individual child, we look at the form of cerebral palsy, the mother's and child's medical history, and onset of the disorder," explains Dr. Ose Bonifacio Rafanan.

The PCPI center has several rehabilitation programs for children and adults with cerebral palsy. These include speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, medical intervention, family support services and early education.

It has a special playground, a computer tutorial classroom designed to introduce cerebral palsy students to e-commerce, a sensory integration room and a workshop facility for patients with equilibrium and balance problems. Its "easy street" room trains patients for mobility on public transportation.

Risk factors

Over the years, scientists have examined thousands of expectant mothers, followed them through childbirth and monitored their children's early neurological development. They have uncovered these risk factors for cerebral palsy:

- Birth injury caused by medical negligence (like careless handling of the child's cranium that may obstruct oxygen flow to the brain)
- Breech presentation during delivery
- Complicated labor and delivery
- Babies with physical birth defects—including faulty formation of the spinal bones, an abnormally small jawbone and hernia
- Low Apgar score (a numbered rating that reflects a newborn's heart rate, breathing, muscle tone, reflexes and skin color)
- Low birth weight (weighing less than 2,500 grams) and premature birth (being born less than 37 weeks into pregnancy)
- Multiple births
- Nervous system malformations while still in the womb
- Vaginal bleeding during the sixth to ninth months of pregnancy and severe proteinuria (the presence of excess proteins in the urine)
- Mothers who suffered from hyperthyroidism, mental retardation or seizures
- Infants who have seizures

Controlling disability

In cerebral palsy, brain damage is a one-time occurrence and the resulting impairment in motor skills, speech and muscle development cannot be "cured."

However, there are an ever-growing number of options in controlling the extent of a person's disability. Early intervention is considered the single most important effort. And certain conditions known to cause cerebral palsy, such as rubella (German measles) and jaundice can now be prevented or treated.

"If the signs are recognized and the condition is diagnosed early, then therapy and special learning can keep the disability under control. This is why PCPI's most immediate mission is to educate the public about cerebral palsy," says Edwards.

Identification of infants with cerebral palsy very early in life offers children the best opportunity for full development.

The PCPI is active in public information campaigns about the disease so Filipinos will know how to handle the disorder.

Says Edwards: "You may see the physical impairment of people with cerebral palsy and their helplessness, but a lot of them, if not all, are tough individuals willing to rise from their disabilities. They just need time, understanding and, of course, proper care and timely intervention."

Cerebral palsy types

Spastic. Characterized by stiff and permanently contracted muscles, this is evident in 70 to 80 percent of patients with cerebral palsy. When both legs are affected by spasticity, they may turn in and cross at the knees.

Athetoid or dyskinetic. This is characterized by uncontrolled, slow, writhing movements. It is evident in about 10 to 20 percent of cerebral palsy patients.

These abnormal movements usually affect the hands, feet, arms or legs and, in some cases, the muscles of the face and tongue, cause grimacing or drooling. The movements often increase during periods of emotional stress and disappear during sleep.

Ataxic. This rare form that appears in some five to 10 percent of cerebral palsy patients affects one's sense of balance and depth perception. Affected persons often have poor coordination and walk unsteadily with a wide gait. They have difficulty attempting quick or precise movements, such as writing or buttoning a shirt.

Mixed forms. It is common for patients to have symptoms of more than one of the previous three forms. Among the most common mixed forms are spasticity and athetoid movements.

PCPI

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Scared of the dentist

MY son is afraid of going to the dentist. He is 9 and the only time he sees a dentist is during his school's regular dental checkup. I remember having fears myself of going to the dentist when I was a child.

—Rose

Usually, the child's fear is the fear of the unknown. Have him come over and watch the next time you have your teeth cleaned. You should be a very good role model so your child will realize that he has nothing to be afraid of.

In the office, I lend a VHS tape to parents who would like to schedule their children for a checkup. There are cartoons of a dinosaur and a giraffe going to the dentist. Toward the end, I come out and introduce myself and treat other children. We make fun of the facemask and goggles that could be perceived by a child as scary. After watching the tape for a week, the child now knows what will happen in the dental office and he gets so excited that he can't wait to have his teeth cleaned.

Who needs to detox?

TODAY we are exposed to chemicals in greater concentrations. We live in areas that exceed smog standards. Most drinking water contains over 700 chemicals, including excessive levels of lead. We are not aware of the food processing ingredients like emulsifiers and preservatives in our food that can remain in the body for years. Consumers ingest all the chemicals and pesticides that have remained as contaminants accumulating in the food chain.

Ideally, we should live in a pollution-free environment, eat untainted foods and drink pure water. If we can't, then we need to "detox"—go through a process of detoxification to help prevent disease.

Detoxification is a normal body process of eliminating or neutralizing toxins through the colon, liver, kidneys, lungs, lymph and skin. In fact, internal detoxification is one of our body's most basic automatic functions.

A detox program aims to remove the cause of disease before it makes us ill. It's a time-honored way to keep immune response high, so our body can handle the toxicity it encounters. In the past, detoxification was used either clinically for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, or individually as a once-a-year mild "spring cleaning" for general health maintenance.

The most important and longest lasting effect of detoxification therapy is the reduction of stress on the immune system. It can increase vitality, reduce blood pressure and blood fats (cholesterol and triglycerides), and improve the assimilation of vitamins and minerals.

To undertake a safe and effective detox program, we need to consult a doctor who understands the concepts of detoxification from the standpoint of integrative medicine. The St. Michael Center for Integrative Medicine administers a detox program under a qualified health professional. Find out if you need to detox, call 929-6090 or 929-6093.

Health care package for women

A HEALTHCARE provider for over 50 years, De Los Santos Medical Center (Delomed) offers complete diagnostic and treatment facilities for the early detection and management of diseases. Among them are the GE Logic 400 Ultrasound , GE Senographe 600 and Achilles Bone Densitometer. These are the part of the institution's "Women's Health Care Package" which was recently launched for the early diagnosis of common health problems Filipino women suffer from.

Dr. Efren De Los Santos, medical director, said regular medical checkups are recommended to prevent illness. Designed especially for women over 40, the program includes a mammogram for breast cancer examination, abdominal and pelvic ultrasounds for ovarian, uterine and cervical checkup, and bone densitometry for osteoporosis screening. This package costs P1,700.

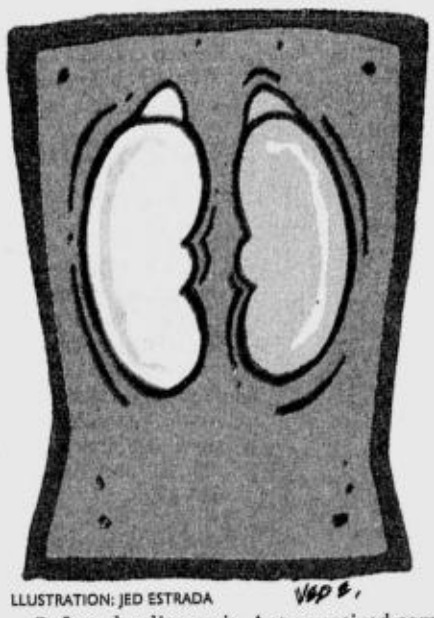
Delomed is located at 201 E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 723-0041 to 54 or e-mail info@delomed.com.

The case of the shared kidney

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

TRUE friendship means selfless sharing and undying support when most people can't be relied upon. For Anton T., his childhood buddy Mark epitomizes the essence of a true friend. And he is grateful that in Mark he found someone more like a brother. Mark gave one of his kidneys to Anton so the latter might live longer despite two malfunctioning kidneys.

On April 9, 1995, 48-year-old Anton received the bad news from his attending nephrologist (kidney specialist) that he had chronic kidney failure—a serious disease that can be fatal if not treated properly. Suddenly, his almost perfect life was being challenged. He had a loving family, great career and an enviable status in his community. Everything was going great for him. There was nothing more he could ask for.



LLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Wrong attitude

He always considered himself a healthy hunk of a man. Except that he was diagnosed to have high blood pressure and diabetes 10 years ago. Both diseases ran in the family. Because he didn't feel any symptom attributable to his hypertension and diabetes, he didn't find it necessary to comply with the prescriptions his doctor gave him. His follow-up visit to his family physician was as rare as the appearance of a blue moon.

He could hardly believe that at the prime of his life, his wrong attitude about his health would drain his health. Both his kidneys had given up on him.

The nephrologist explained to Anton that the main function of the kidneys was to filter wastes from the blood and excrete them via the urine. They regulate the levels of water and different electrolytes, such as salt, which are needed by the body for good health. They also produce hormones that control other body functions such as blood pressure.

In chronic kidney failure, the kidneys are no longer capable of adequately removing fluids and wastes (urea) from the body. In the process, the kidneys lose their capacity to maintain the proper level of certain kidney-regulated substances in the blood.

Leading cause of deaths

Chronic kidney failure is the ninth leading cause of deaths in the Philippines. In the United States alone, it affects over 250,000 annually. The disease is mainly caused by a number of diseases and inherited disorders. Diabetes and high blood pressure are two major causes.

The pattern of the disease is always the same. It consists of several stages but once it reaches a certain stage, it becomes irreversible. It eventually leads to total kidney failure, also known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Without proper treatment to remove wastes and fluids from the bloodstream, patients with ESRD eventually die of uremia, a terminal condition when the blood becomes acidotic because of severe accumulation of the body's waste products.

MEDICAL FILES

Before the diagnosis, Anton noticed some changes in his bodily functions. He began to wake up at night repeatedly just to urinate. Getting a good night's sleep became a challenge and this caused him to become sleepy at work. Most of the time, he felt tired easily even when doing light exercises. He also noticed that his saliva tasted like ammonia, with his breath stinking even if he visited his dentist regularly. Even his officemates noticed the changes in him, and some of them would bluntly tell him that he looked ill.

At first, he dismissed these changes in his health as a normal part of the middle-age strain on the body. However, his symptoms became progressively severe. That was when his buddy, Mark, convinced him to see a medical expert.

It was then that Anton found out he had ESRD most probably as an end-stage complication of his diabetes and high blood pressure. Both these diseases cause progressive damage to the small blood vessels of the kidneys that lead to kidney failure.

A strict control of both blood pressure and blood sugar is necessary to prevent and retard serious damage to the small blood vessels. Anton never thought this was necessary.

Kidney failure patients with high blood pressure and diabetes should religiously take medications to control their blood pressure and sugar. The blood pressure should preferably be on the low side (125/75 mmHg). Two or more drugs for hypertension may be necessary to achieve this. The blood sugar must also be as close to normal as possible (110 mg/dL). However, caution must be exercised to prevent hypoglycemia, which is an excessive lowering of the blood sugar.

Irreversible stage

"Your disease has reached an irreversible stage. It is highly advisable for you to undergo hemodialysis as a temporary means of artificially cleansing your blood. Subsequently though, we may have to consider kidney transplantation," Anton's nephrologist advised him.

Hemodialysis involves circulating the patient's blood outside of the body through an extracorporeal circuit (ECC), or dialysis circuit. The dialysis circuit consists of plastic blood tubing, a two-compartment filter known as a dialyzer, or artificial kidney, and a dialysis machine that monitors and maintains blood flow and administers dialysate, a chemical bath used to draw waste products out of the blood.

The patient's blood leaves and enters the body through two needles inserted into the patient's vein, called an access site, and is pushed through the blood compartment of the dialyzer. Once inside the dialyzer, excess fluids and toxins are pulled out of the bloodstream and into the dialysate compartment, where they are carried out of the body. At the same time, electrolytes and other chemicals in the dialysate solution move from the dialysate into the bloodstream. The purified, chemically balanced blood is then returned to the body.

Kidney donor

Anton underwent regular dialysis while trying to find a willing and compatible kidney donor. This was, however, a big problem. His wife volunteered, but initial matching of her tissues with those of Anton showed a poor match. Their children, aged 11 and 12, were still too young to donate one of their kidneys.

After more than a year on regular hemodialysis and unable to find a suitable donor, it was like rain in the desert when Mark visited him one day and said: "We've always shared everything since we were children. I'm willing to share you one of my kidneys."

Tissue matching showed that Mark was a suitable donor and the surgery was immediately scheduled.

Kidney transplantation involves surgically attaching a functioning kidney, or graft, from a brain dead organ donor (a cadaver transplant) or from a living donor to a patient with ESRD. When the new kidney is transplanted, the patient's existing diseased kidneys may or may not be removed, depending on the circumstances surrounding the kidney failure. Immunosuppressive medications are required after transplantation surgery to prevent the body from rejecting the transplanted kidney, which is recognized as a foreign body.

Since his diagnosis, Anton has received a lot of support from other people. But he was most grateful to Mark who did not think twice in giving one of his kidneys.

"I don't know how I can ever repay you. I will forever be grateful to you *pare*," Anton told Mark as both of them were being wheeled to the operating room for the transplant surgery.

"Nothing to it, brod. Just buy me a drink when we get out of here," Mark answered.

(Medical Files is based on actual case histories with some information changed to hide the patient's identity. For feedback, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph)

Anti-AIDS drug now affordable to RP patients

THE ACQUIRED immune-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) remains a modern scourge that seems to have equated the devastating effect of the bubonic plague during the Middle Ages. The deadly disease has taken its devastating toll mainly in the developing nations of Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

In the Philippines, Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines (Biphi) realizes that making anti-HIV/AIDS drugs more accessible and affordable to afflicted patients is critical to successfully combating the AIDS dilemma.

Recognizing the need to increase the availability of medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, Biphi has recently sold Viramune (nevirapine), a potent and well-tolerated therapeutic option for HIV-infected adult and pediatric patients, to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa, at a discount of 70 percent relative to its original price,

This move is part of the larger initiative of Boehringer Ingelheim to make Viramune more affordable to AIDS patients in developing countries around the globe, from Asia, Europe to Sub-Saharan Africa, at significantly reduced prices.

"Studies have demonstrated that Viramune can fill a critical need in the developing world," said Prof. Rolf Krebs, chair of the Boehringer Ingelheim board of managing directors. "We are confident that our initiative will continue to increase access to this important drug and will have a considerable impact in the developing world."

Biphi is now discussing with Dr. Loreto Roquero of the Department of Health and Dr. James Piad of the Philippine National AIDS Council to make Viramune tablets available to selected public hospitals at a significantly reduced price.

Biphi said a memorandum of agreement, which is being finalized, will be submitted to Secretary Manuel Dayrit for approval. The pharmaceutical firm believes this will further boost the country's campaign against AIDS. Stefan Kilian, the firm's managing director, hopes that other international pharmaceutical companies will soon follow Biphi's example of offering HIV treatment in the Philippines at reduced prices. After all, most AIDS patients are relying on a combination therapy, comprising of several antiretroviral (AVR) drugs.

AIDS is an incurable disease of the immune system that makes the afflicted individuals vulnerable to life-threatening diseases including candidiasis, pneumonia, herpes and tuberculosis. The syndrome is caused by the HIV, which can be transmitted through the body fluids, notably blood and semen, through sexual contact, contaminated needles and transfusion of infected blood.

As an ARV drug, Viramune provides a potent and well-tolerated therapeutic option for HIV-infected adult and pediatric patients combined with other effective ARV agents. It suppresses viral replication with minimal long-term toxicity.

It has some 140 affiliated companies worldwide, which include Biphi, and it focuses on human pharmaceuticals and animal health.

Woman mathematician is top UK savant

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ALTHOUGH I have been fortunate throughout my career to have had inspiring male and female mentors, and have never been discriminated against because of my gender, I realize that I may be in the minority. Women are still oppressed in many parts of the world, the liberation of the Afghans notwithstanding. In the academe, where intellect is supposed to be the supreme arbiter, the influence of men (solely because they are men) often still holds. Cross-cultural statistics have also shown that though the gap between men and women in higher education is fast closing (in fact, in some countries, women in postgraduate work outnumber men), the tenure track is still frequently biased toward men.

It is therefore gratifying to learn that for the first time in the 120-year history of Britain's most illustrious science award—the Adams Prize—a woman was the recipient. Dr. Susan Howson, 29, a lecturer at Nottingham University, was praised for her work in number theory and elliptic curves (a broad topic which a few years earlier fellow Brit Andrew Wiles used to make history by proving Fermat's Last Theorem). The Adams Prize is awarded by Cambridge University, and carries a reward of £12,000. (A good illustration of the prestige of the prize is that a previous winner was James Clark Maxwell of electromagnetism fame.)

Interestingly, for those who assert that mathematical abilities are influenced by the family, Dr. Howson's case would be an exception. Her father is an electrician, and her mother, a secretary. So how did she become so good in math? She cites her background at Burley-in-Wharfedale middle school in West Yorkshire, and the support of a teacher, David Womersley. In an interview with journalist Karen Gold (The Guardian, March 4, 2002), she says of Womersley: "Most of the time at that age, we were supposed to be doing long division and fractions, but he took time off from that every week to do investigations and teach us how to really think." (I wonder how many students would appreciate math if their teachers learned to do the same!)

Dr. Howson attended Cambridge, but bemoaned the lack of female role models (all her teachers were male). She also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but decried the extremely competitive atmosphere, which had a negative impact on female students. "I think some girls are put off...and female undergraduates [at Cambridge] seem to drop out because they are not as confident as the men. Competition doesn't usually bother me, but...[at MIT] I was uncomfortable with the very macho atmosphere: who was working the hardest, staying the latest. I think women may be a bit less obsessional [sic] and single-minded than men on average, and since those characteristics can help with maths, that may make a difference."

Fortunately, Dr. Howson was not deterred by all these. She went into this highly theoretical field of research ("because of the beauty of the theorems"), but now it is being applied, especially in cryptography (code-making and code-breaking), essential in our wired and security-conscious world.

I acknowledge my colleague Dr. Cathy Vistro-Yu for e-mailing Karen Gold's article. I hope that everyone soon realizes that the beauty of science is universal, and that its secrets are for all to discover, regardless of race, creed or gender.

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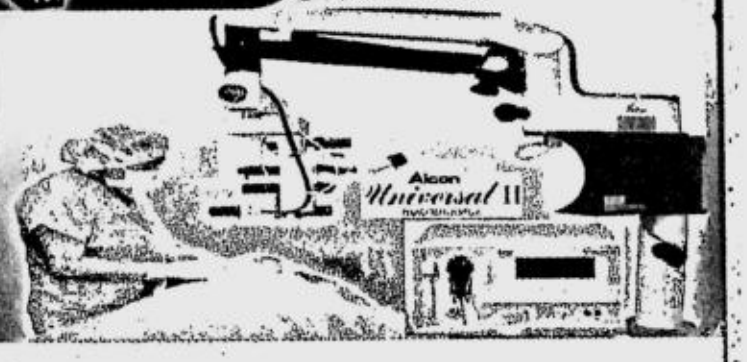

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BLACK

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Summer movies carry question marks

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—So many summer movies, so many question marks.

Is The Rock actor enough to carry "The Scorpion King" without the digitally grafted insect body he wore in "The Mummy Returns"?

(The answer is yes. The movie topped the US box-office last weekend, grossing $36.2 million.—Ed.)

Will surfing the web as "Spider-Man," another half-human, half-bug, make an action hero out of Tobey Maguire?

Remake

Have the people who bring you Austin Powers found a film title that won't prompt counter-measures by the people who bring you James Bond?

And will the people who brought you "Little Nicky" be burned in effigy for daring a remake of Frank Capra's "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town"?

If audiences can buy nice guy Denzel Washington as a bad cop in "Training Day," can they buy nice guy Tom Hanks as a hit man in "Road to Perdition"?

Might movie marquees collapse under the heft of Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise's names on "Minority Report"?

And the big question: "Attack of the Clones"?

Fans have heaped scorn on the B-movie title of "Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones," a film expected to follow its four predecessors as Hollywood's blockbuster hit of the summer.

Producing partner

Rick McCallum, producing partner of "Star Wars" creator George Lucas, said fans initially derided most of the series' chapter tags—including "The Phantom Menace" and the original film's "A New Hope." They eventually embrace the titles as befitting the story lines, he said.

"That's part of the fun of it," McCallum said. "There is a group of people who are seriously deranged, and who we love dearly. That's what makes 'Star Wars' work, in a strange way."

The latest chapter brings back Ewan McGregor as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Natalie Portman as Padme Amidala, the story picking up 10 years after the action of "Phantom Menace." The main cast addition is Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker—the future Darth Vader—now a Jedi knight in training.

Obi-Wan and Anakin are assigned to protect Padme from a separatist faction, setting the stage for romance between Anakin and Padme and his eventual attitude adjustment to the dark side of the Force in Episode III.

"The transition to the dark side takes place over the course of two films, so the character's still a work in progress," said Christensen, who received hints from Lucas. "George would say, 'Well, this happens in the next film, so you might want to take that into consideration when you're playing this scene.'"

Powerhouse offerings

Before Anakin jumps back into action May 16, Hollywood already will have delivered two powerhouse offerings, "The Scorpion King" and "Spider-Man."

A spinoff of "The Mummy" franchise, "Scorpion King" debuted more than a month before Memorial Day, once the traditional start of the movie industry's busy summer season. It stars pro wrestler The Rock as the warrior he originated in last summer's smash "The Mummy Returns."

Two weeks later comes franchise-in-the-making "Spider-Man," starring Maguire as comic-book hero Peter Parker, transformed into the agile crime-fighter after he's bitten by a mutant spider. Willem Dafoe plays the villainous Green Goblin and Kirsten Dunst is girl-next-door Mary Jane Watson.

Like other films adapted from beloved print sources, such as "The Lord of the Rings," "X-men" and the "Harry Potter" tales, "Spider-Man" has been under microscopic scrutiny by fans. Director Sam Raimi said he used to scan Internet buzz about "Spider-Man" but found fans' pre-emptive criticism too distracting.

"At first, I was very unsettled by it," Raimi said. "These fans haven't just existed for the last seven years like fans of the 'Harry Potter' books. 'Spider-Man' has existed for 40 years. There's generations of fans."

"The thing that pulled me through is I really loved the material myself," Raimi said. "I just stuck to what I loved about the piece and the character, and by doing so, hopefully can please the fans."

Beloved rodent

Besides "Star Wars," summer sequels include Michael J. Fox's return as the voice of

SUMMER/p.C2

Summer movies carry question marks

From page C1

the beloved rodent in "Stuart Little 2;" "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams," with the family that spies together facing rival junior agents; Mike Myers' latest romp as Austin Powers, the swinging spy with rotten teeth; and "Men in Black II," with director Barry Sonnenfeld reuniting Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.

"Barry referred to Tommy and me as an old married couple, and that's how it felt on the set," Smith said.

"For the first half of the movie, because Tommy's lost his memory, we essentially flipped roles from the first movie. I'm the burned-out MIB and he's the bright-eyed rookie. So it was interesting kind of playing one another."

Among other highlights:

•Cruise on the lam from a psychic cop corps in Spielberg's sci-fi thriller "Minority Report."

•Adam Sandler and his "Little Nicky" director Steven Brill channeling Gary Cooper in the update of Capra's "Mr. Deeds."

•Matt Damon as the amnesiac spy in "The Bourne Identity," from Robert Ludlum's novel.

• "The Master of Disguise," starring Dana Carvey as a natural-born mimic out to rescue his kidnapped dad.

• Al Pacino and Catherine Keener in "Simone," the tale of a filmmaker who creates an artificial actress.

•Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank in the murder mystery "Insomnia," from "Memento" director Christopher Nolan.

Animated adventure

• "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron," the animated adventure of a wild mustang.

•Harrison Ford as a Soviet submarine commander in "K19: The Widowmaker."

• "Scooby-Doo," a live-action update of the cartoon, starring Freddie Prinze Jr. and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

•Eddie Murphy in the sci-fi action comedy "The Adventures of

Pluto Nash."

• "Enough," with Jennifer Lopez as an ex-waitress battling her menacing husband.

•Nicolas Cage playing bodyguard to a Navajo code man in the World War II drama "Windtalkers."

"Life or Something Like It," with Angelina Jolie as a shallow journalist facing a prophecy of imminent death.

• "Lilo & Stitch," Disney's animated adventure about a Hawaiian girl who adopts an alien "dog."

•Hugh Grant posing as an unattached dad to hit on single mothers in "About a Boy," from the novel by Nick Hornby ("High Fidelity").

•Anthony Hopkins and Chris Rock in the espionage romp "Bad Company."

•Charlize Theron and Courtney Love in the hostage thriller "Trapped."

•Robin Williams as an unstable photo clerk obsessed with a family in "One Hour Photo."

Hired gun

• "Road to Perdition" from director Sam Mendes ("American Beauty"), starring Hanks as a Depression-era hired gun on a journey of revenge and redemption after the deaths of his wife and son.

Mendes' dream cast also includes Paul Newman, Jude Law, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Stanley Tucci.

For Hanks, "it is a very different kind of role," Mendes said. "It isn't an Everyman figure, and he's very contained, very economical in his performance, and quite dark. But I feel like I'm not the only person who's sensed in some of his other performances a darkness underneath."

While "Attack of the Clones" took flak for its title, the new "Austin Powers" comedy had its own name game. New Line Cinema had to temporarily scrap the title "Austin Powers in Goldmember" in a dispute with MGM, keeper of the Bond franchise, whose latest installment hits theaters this fall. The studios later worked out a deal to resurrect the title.

This time out, Myers reprises roles such as Dr. Evil and Fat Bastard and plays a new villain, Goldmember, a play on the Bond nemesis "Goldfinger."

"He's sort of a mad Dutchman from the '70s, a disco club owner and also kind of a crazy metallurgist who loves gold and had a horrible smelting accident which changed his anatomy a bit," said Jay Roach, director of all three "Austin Powers" films.

Lousy dental work

Michael Caine joins the cast as spy Nigel Powers, the father Austin's always struggled to live up to. Nigel shares his son's big glasses and lousy dental work.

Hollywood's summer holds other reunions and revisitations:

•M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense") is back on creepy turf with "Signs," starring Mel Gibson as a farmer beset by mysterious crop circles.

•Ben Affleck revives Tom Clancy's CIA analyst Jack Ryan, previously played by Alec Baldwin and Harrison Ford, in "The Sum of All Fears," about a terrorist plot that pushes the United States and Russia to the brink of nuclear annihilation.

•Steven Soderbergh hooks up again with his "Erin Brockovich" star Julia Roberts for "Full Frontal," a romantic comedy co-starring David Duchovny, Blair Underwood and Catherine Keener.

• "Fatal Attraction" director Adrian Lyne has a new twist on infidelity with Richard Gere and Diane Lane in "Unfaithful," about a wife whose fling jeopardizes her marriage.

•Vin Diesel reteams with "The Fast and the Furious" director Rob Cohen for "XXX," about an extreme-sports star recruited as a spy.

Washed-up director

•Woody Allen returns to comic romance set in the film industry with "Hollywood Ending." He stars as an Oscar-winning, washed-up director who must work for his ex-wife (Tea Leoni) to salvage his career.

•And one of America's most-beloved foreign-language films, "Cinema Paradiso," is retrofitted in a new version that adds 51 minutes of previously unreleased footage.

That foreign-language Academy Award winner, along with "Windtalkers," "Road to Perdition" and a new take on "The Importance of Being Earnest," featuring Reese Witherspoon and Rupert Everett, should help smarten up a summer loaded with action and comedy.

"It's not a conventional piece of summer filmmaking," director Mendes said of "Road to Perdition," "but I think we feel the story is strong enough to be able to hold a mainstream audience." *AP*

Basil and Ryan perform at Crossover concert May 2

105.1 Crossover's monthly concert series "Crossover Presents" features Basil Valdez and Ryan Cayabyab in an evening of choice Crossover classics, OPM hits and special revivals on May 2 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental.

Joining them is funnyman Jon Santos plus seasoned musicians Mel Villena on sax, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Roy Mercado on drums and musical director Gerard Salonga.

The relaxing music of Da Capo sets the mood at 8 p.m. while The Opera will open the show with hits from Spyro Gyra, patti Austin and Incognito.

Brick Road anniversary

The Brick Road, located at the East Wing carpark of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta Rizal, celebrates its first anniversary with day-long festivities today.

Highlight of the celebration is the grand finals of "The Band Showdown" where eight band finalists will vie for the top prize of P15,000. The contest will be aired live over 97.1 WLS-FM starting at 9 p.m. Capping the evening is a grand concert featuring Rivermaya.

The Company at Hard Rock

The Company has extended its series of summer shows, "Summer Storybook," at the Hard Rock Cafe to May 2, 9, 16 and 23. The show features almost half of the group's new material from their latest album "Storybook."

In June, The Company flies to Singapore to represent Asia in "Explore A Capella Festival," a non-competitive expo featuring the best of a capella music singing from the US, New Zealand and Asia. On June 25, the group will hold a solo concert at the CCP, where the group had its first concert booking in 1985 in Celeste Legaspi's "Komiks Konsiyerto."

'Sex in the City' promo

The fourth season of "Sex and the City" starts on May 14 on HBO. The movie channel is giving away promo items to viewers of the new episodes who can answer questions about the series.

Questions for Episode 49: "The Agony and 'Ex'-tasy":

1. Carrie gets a letter from a dating service. What is the name of the company?

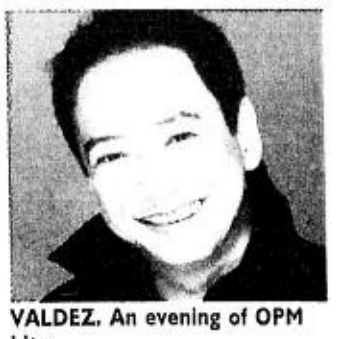
2. What was written on the engagement party invitation that Miranda received?

3. What did Mr. Big give Carrie for her birthday?

4. Which actor do Carrie and Miranda fantasize about?

Interested readers can send in their answers to SATC Promo c/o Virtusio PR, P.O. Box 512, Greenhills, San Juan or e-mail nespinosa@virtusio.com

MONTAGE



VALDEZ. An evening of OPM hits.

Working moms symposium

In time for Mother's Day, Star World and ABS-CBN's Working Mom will hold a whole-day symposium for working mothers on May 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Columbus Room of Discovery Suites.

Featured speakers are Cory Quirino on health and fitness, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan on guiding principles for balancing family and career and An Alcantara on guidelines for quality time at work and at home. There will also be lectures on power dressing courtesy of Liz Claiborne and skincare for mothers from Shiseido.

The affair will be hosted by Chiqui Roa-Puno of "Mommy Academy." Call 637-0266 or e-mail stvmnl@startv.com.ph.

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'Star for a Night' monthly finals tonight

AT 8 tonight on IBC-13 the talent search "Star for A Night," will hold its first monthly finals, with weekly winners Roxanne Castro, Rina Natividad, Angeli Flores and Tina Braganza competing for the top prize.

Since the show was taped some days ago, the results have leaked: we hear that two of the weekly winners for April tied as the competition's first monthly champions.

So much the better. Now, two outstanding talents instead of one will be given a potentially starbuilding showcase.

Do tune in to the show tonight to determine who they are, these two gifted young talents who are now no longer stars for only one night, but stars for (at least) a month!

'Where the Truth Lies'

ON the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m., on Sunday, April 28, the TV movie "Where the Truth Lies" stars Marlee Matlin and Regina King.

As the legal drama unfolds, a controversial political candidate is murdered and all fingers point to his deaf campaign manager (Matlin). Her trial threatens to ruin lives, open old wounds and settle some scores that have been festering for years.

Marlin's character is represented by the most successful criminal lawyer in the States (Regina King). But it turns out that her motives are not purely altruistic. She's agreed to defend Matlin's character because it gives her the opportunity to take on her ex-lover, the District Attorney.

"Where the Truth Lies" will be replayed at 9 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

'Isang Buhay sa Tambakan'

At 6:30 tonight, Dulaang Talyer is mounting Rolando Tinio's "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan" at the Makati Park and Garden Amphitheater (Barangay West Rembo, Fort Bonifacio, in front of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Makati).

Tinio's play is a biting comedy-musical about the rich and poor, particularly when members of the uppercrust undergo "immersion" in a slum area. Actors include Mailes Kanapi, Teresa Jamias, McCoy Tarnate, Nazer Salcedo and Jaime Antonio. Rolando Inocencio directs. Call 896-2464.

Feedback

From Jose Ma. F. Serrano Jr.: "Mr. Lino Brocka is not the only one that should be honored for 'Maynila, sa Kuko ng Liwanag.' What about the novelist, Edgardo Reyes, and the scriptwriter, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.?

"I have been reading about Filipino movies but have not seen one for a long, long time. Although many times, I admit that I would want to see one of the acclaimed ones like 'Jose Rizal' or 'American Adobo.' The reason is many Filipino films are hurriedly done without much regard for little details, so long as the producers rake in the money.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"Last night I saw the movie 'Katawan' with Christopher de Leon and Rosanna Roces on TV. I tried to see if I could finish the movie without being turned off. Well, sad to say, I *was* turned off, and I went to sleep. *Sayang*, it could have been a nice movie if more painstaking efforts on details had been given the dialogue.

"It looks as if there was just the story idea and *'bahala na sila, kahit ano na lang ang sabihin.'* An architect could have been hired as a consultant. *Sayang talaga.*

"*Sa* 'Wheel of Fortune' *naman*, this could be one for your booboos collection: Rustom Padilla keeps on saying 'Fifty thousand worth of prizes.'

"Fifty thousand what—centavos, Hong Kong dollars? *Bakit walang nakapupuna?*"

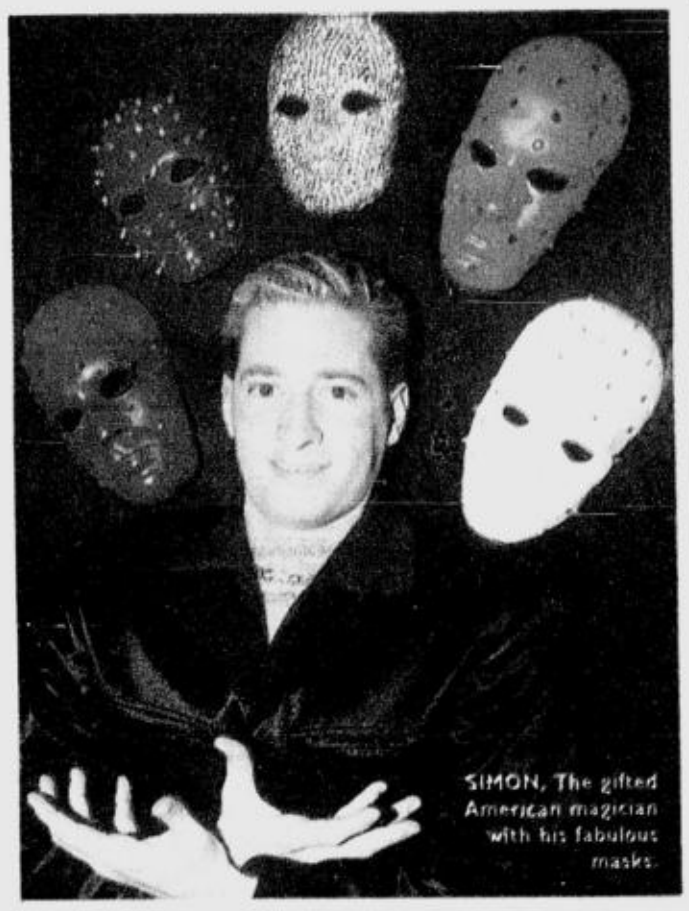
NUT's notes: We appreciate your concern for the quality of Filipino movies, Mr. Serrano, but you really must view some recent local productions so you can form a more updated opinion about them.

Thanks for your contribution to our compilation of booboos. We trust that Mr. Padilla will get your message, loud and clear.

Seven years of enchantment

Enchanted Kingdom is celebrating its seventh anniversary on April 27 and 28, and May 1 to 5. There will be a fireworks competition on May 4, a first-ever Mardi Gras Festival, authentic Dragon and Lion dances, and "Macau: City of Culture," a showcase of live demos of various arts and crafts by artisans flown in from Macau.

More: on May 1, "The Enterprise," one of the park's most popular rides, will be open to the public again. And Jeff Simon's World of Magic showcases the gifted American magician with his tricks and fabulous masks at the park's Lunch Pad. Schedule of shows: April 28, 4 and 7 p.m.; May 4, 4 and 6 p.m.; May 5, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call 699-2345.



SIMON, The gifted American magician with his fabulous masks.

Basil . . .

From page C2

Tanghalang Pilipino auditions

Tanghalang Pilipino will conduct auditions on May 7 and 8 at 1 p.m. at the CCP Silangan Hall. Those who qualify will join a five-month program to be conducted by the country's leading theater professionals and get the chance to be part of The Actors Company.

Applicants should be at least 18 years old with some background in acting. They should submit a 2x2" photo attached to a comprehensive resumé, and will be asked to perform a three-minute monologue in Filipino from a produced or published play of their choice. Call 832-3661. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

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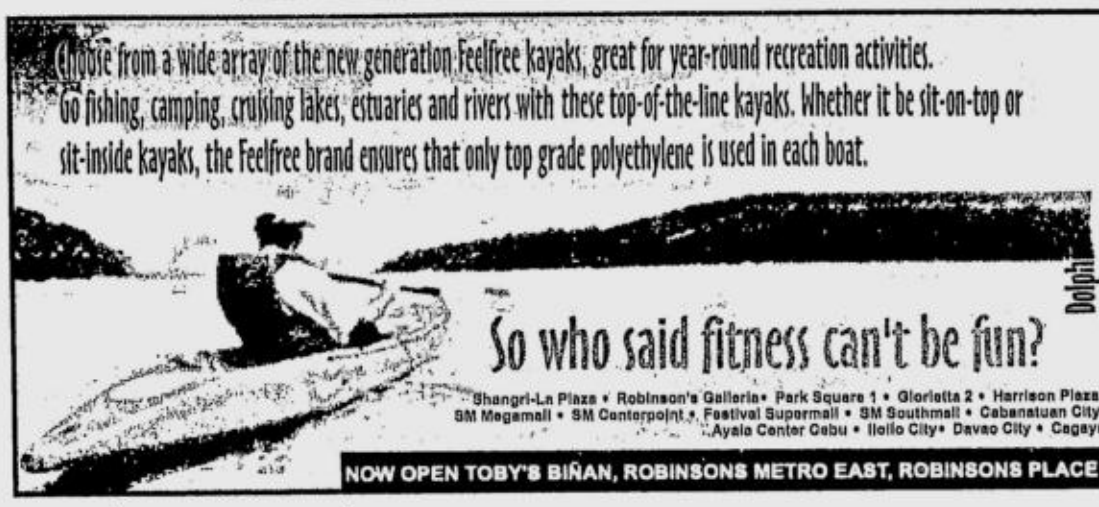

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Visiting filmmaker conducts free Digital Arts Workshop

By Rica Arevalo

MAR Elepaño left the country when he was 21 years old, after getting his mass communication degree at the Ateneo. He obtained his MFA in Film Production at the University of Southern California (USC) in 1978. Now at 48, he has become a successful animator, filmmaker and educator. He is currently the production supervisor and Adjunct Faculty of the Division of Animation and Digital Arts at USC, one of the oldest film schools in USA.

Film and animation

"I got a Fulbright grant to teach film and animation at the Multimedia University, Cyberjaya, Malaysia for one trimester," says Mar. When he arrived in Malaysia, the Fulbright office there offered to sponsor a trip within Southeast Asia. "Immediately, I decided to go to the Philippines *kasi malaki na ang utang ko,*"

His *utang:* despite the fact that he was out of the country for 28 years, his films were being shown at the UP Film Center and Filipino animators from Animagination were getting in touch with him through letters. "They would include my work in the festivals they were organizing. Because of what they did, I felt a sense of belonging. I'm part of this movement. I kept asking, is there any way I can help you?" Mar shares.

Film language

So when his Fulbright grant pushed through, he coordinated with Mowelfund Film Institute, Animagination and Starbox to

ELEPAÑO. Finds his students "very self-motivated."

conduct a Digital Arts workshop for free. "It's all about classic film language but you're using a dv cam and editing software. I wasn't aware *na* here there is such a great support environment. There are people who are very good at what they do and are willing to help. *Kaya nung* first day, I realized, *napakaganda ng mga nangyayari.*"

The workshop is intense and demanding. Mar conducts his lectures in the morning then the carefully chosen nine participants shoot their exercises in documentary, feature and experimental genres and edit their works in Adobe Premiere. At the end of the day, the students watch their work and discuss it with one another.

WORKSHOPPERS at work on their projects . . .

AND viewing TV-film masterworks.

He adds, "All the students are very self-motivated and they have an awareness of what we're taking about. The circumstances are perfect. This is the best workshop I've ever done."

Exercises

Mar has to control the exercises so the students won't go off in many different directions. But when it comes to their own experimental pieces, he gives them a lot of freedom. "It's a good strategy for training. This kind of paradigm I learned from my teacher who taught me animation. Exercises 1 to 9, make it rigid and strict but the last exercise, you're free to go and do whatever you want."

After his brief stint here, he goes back to his old job at USC. "It is like a small production studio, each student is doing his own production. If you have 30 students, you have 30 small productions going on, so there has to be supervision, one person who can give the necessary support and resources, and manage the facilities so those productions can be completed. That's my role."

Some of his students there have worked at Sony Imageworks and Industrial Light & Magic and animated motion picture projects like "Harry Potter," "Stuart Little," "Monsters Inc.," "Mighty Joe Young" and "Star Wars: Phantom Menace."

Two aspects

Animation for Mar is divided into two aspects: personal expression and for commercial purposes. He stresses, "There is animation as entertainment, as commerce. It has its place in world culture.

"On the other hand, animation as personal expression is here to stay, too. Generally speaking, animation as self-expression is always hidden, on the fringe, *gutom*. But, no matter what you do, there will be people who will be doing this, *maski nagugutom.*"

He tells me that Filipino-American filmmakers live in a very vibrant environment. There are people who believe in the entertainment industry and people who believe in independent work. When Gene Cajayon was making his film, "The Debut," he availed of Mar's services. "They came to me. 'How can you help us? We really don't have any money. We need a title sequence and some visual effects.' I helped them create the opening title sequence using traditional photography. *Maganda lumabas at tuwang-tuwa sila,*" Mar recalls.

Mar has good things to say about his trip here. "*Ako ang natuto.* My school is in Hollywood, so *ang nagiging* dominant image *ay yung* Hollywood image. It is such a struggle to do something different. You have to be very focused.

"Most of my students want to participate in the creation of the Hollywood image because it would provide them with a living. The culture of the independent filmmaker is so difficult. There are no promises, no guarantees, no glamour. People don't understand what you're doing.

"But here, there's no question. People understand what it is. They know the price and they are willing to pay it."

Bibsy Carballo and Peter Capotosto at TLYC Snack Camp

PETER Capotosto is an Italian-American born at Lourdes Hospital 44 years ago. His dad fought in World War II, and was the aide de camp of General Treudeau.

Commodore

In 1951, Peter's dad came back to Manila and worked with the Manila Times. At 43, his dad became commodore of the Manila Yacht Club where Peter practically grew up sailing. Peter himself became commodore of the Manila Yacht Club at age 44, and he considers this a great coincidence. Peter has won competitions both in local and international sailing.

For Capotosto, sailing is not merely competing but learning organization and engineering; and in the end, you learn even more about yourself, the limits of your mental and physical capacity. You also begin to understand and appreciate the power of nature.

Six years ago, he built the Taal Lake Yacht Club (TLYC)on a one-hectare lot fronting Taal Lake in Talisay. From the Tagaytay crossroad, you turn left toward the DAP and down trough the winding, zigzagging road to TLYC. Here, sailboats are docked. And Peter, who is deeply rooted in the "How to sail" program offers the place for people to learn the sport. For more information call Manila at (02) 811-3183 or Talisay at (043) 773-0192 or click at their website at http://www.sailphi.org.ph/tlyc/chapter.htm.

CARBALLO in her comfy tent.

KIDS learn how to make handicrafts at summer camp.

Camping

Meanwhile, Snack Camp director Bibsy Carballo has always been a member of the Taal Lake Yacht Club and on weekends spends her time camping there. Four years ago, Bibsy organized the Snack Camp attended by 35 kids at a time. The kids engage in activities such as drawing and tie- dyeing with Arri Herrera, pottery with Lanelle Abueva, acting with Lara Fabregas, sailing with Capotosto. They also join in Lubid team building games such as trekking up Mt. Talamitan in Nasugbu, Batangas, learning compass reading on an obstacle course, camp cooking, stargazing, photography, archery, taekwondo, taebo-aerobics, gymnastics (handled by Jackielou Blanco) and sailing.

It's a fun week for all the kids, now already brown from summer sun.

Another Snack, the eighth camp since it all started, will be conducted from May 6 to 11 at the Taal Lake Yacht. Call 721-0801, 726-7164 and 724-1762.

Combative Grammy chief makes no apologies

By Anthony Breznican

SANTA MONICA, California—C. Michael Greene makes no apologies.

The head of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences knows he has plenty of detractors; they call him a bully and accuse him of transforming the non-profit music organization into a dictatorship.

Aggressive style

But Greene says it's his aggressive style over the last 16 years that has boosted earnings from the Grammy Awards program from $700,000 to nearly $32 million per year, and expanded the academy's membership from about 3,200 to more than 20,000 music professionals.

He admits to some hotheadedness, but argues that's part of being a strong businessman.

"I will not allow anybody, I don't care who it is, to do anything that breaks precedent with what this organization stands for," he says, flashing a devilish smile during an interview in his office. "And when they do, I'm the meanest sore-toothed, saber-toothed tiger in the world."

He adds, "I'm not here to make myself look good."

Greene is influential in determining what the organization will stand for on issues such as copyright protection, Internet piracy and artists' rights, which can place him at odds with legislators, record company executives and music fans - even though he may be aligned with the same people on other issues.

Reluctant

Many people in the music industry were reluctant to speak publicly about Greene for this article.

He has overseen the birth of the Latin Grammys and the MusiCares charity, which raises money for aging, poor musicians and drug-abuse treatment. He also started the Grammy Foundation, dedicated to preserving deteriorating recordings and creating music education programs for children, such as the Leonard Bernstein Center for Learning.

And Greene is credited with expanding the breadth of the Grammy Awards to include rap, alternative and heavy-metal. Under his stewardship, the Grammy list has grown from 68 categories in 1986 to 101 this year.

Many people ask why he doesn't trim some of the categories, such as polka or rock gospel.

"We have a lot of categories, but it's a big music world," Greene says.

He says he encourages the organization to consider more cutting-edge performers like Radiohead and Eminem for top prizes.

Public Enemy rapper Chuck D, who once wrote the lyric "who gives a (expletive) about a (expletive) Grammy?", said on his Web site recently that he changed his mind about the show after Greene became president in 1988, calling him "a great guy" who cares about urban music.

CLARK. Accuses Greene of ruining his agreements with singers like Britney Spears and Faith Hill.

Respected

"The point was making sure rap was respected," Chuck D wrote.

Over the years, however, the 52-year-old Greene has collected a list of colorful foes including Dick Clark, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and many Cuban-Americans in Florida.

Clark filed a $10 million unfair-business lawsuit against Greene in December, saying the Grammy chief blacklists performers from his CBS show if they appear first on Clark's American Music Awards on ABC.

"Mr. Greene has caused me a lot of pain and a lot of stress," Clark said at the time, accusing Greene of ruining his agreements with singers such as Britney Spears and Faith Hill.

Greene insists he simply offers performers a choice—his show or Clark's—and most of them opt for the higher-profile Grammys.

Michael Jackson, whose attempt to back out of the AMAs this year led Clark to sue, eventually decided to stay with Clark's program. The lawsuit is pending.

Greene and Giuliani feuded in 1998 after Greene berated one of the mayor's aides, creating a rift that drove the awards show back to Los Angeles only two years after Giuliani had lured it to New York.

"Disgusting and reprehensible," was Giuliani's assessment of Greene, who sent flowers to the aide by way of making amends. She sent them back.

Cool demeanor

Greene maintained a cool demeanor during the conflict. "I love the mayor, and I love the city of New York," was all he said then. Years later, he says the same.

In August, Cuban exiles in Florida denounced Greene for scheduling musicians from the Communist nation to perform at the second annual Latin Grammys ceremony, arguing that it would benefit Fidel Castro's repressive regime. **AP**

Almodovar courts controversy again with new film

By Elisabeth O'Leary

MADRID—Pedro Almodovar's new film "Talk to Her" should prove that even after winning an Oscar last year, the Spanish director is not about to join the establishment.

Loneliness

"Talk to Her" (Hable con Ella) is a story principally about loneliness, with a few of Almodovar's habitual twists. It centers on a male nurse in love with his comatose patient and the friendship he strikes up with the boyfriend of another comatose patient—an injured woman matador. The movie also is bound to stir controversy as it includes a sympathetic portrayal of a rapist.

"Any human with a heart and without prejudice can understand this movie because it's about . . . very simple emotions," Almodovar told reporters at a screening of the film, which is being released throughout Europe.

Almodovar's first film since 2000's Oscar-winning "All About My Mother" is a thought-provoking drama partly based on fact, and there are many emotionally charged scenes—although it also provides the handful of belly laughs associated with the director's earlier work.

Bullfight

There are also some powerful—and bloody—scenes of the matador in a bullfight, which could raise hackles among Almodovar's English-speaking audience. Spanish animal rights activists complained of cruelty during filming, but a spokesman for the production company said they merely filmed a scheduled bullfight.

And, of course, the film is sexually explicit with breast shots of the beautiful comatose woman.

Asked whether the prestige of the Oscar had weighed on him during the making of the film, which he wrote and directed, Almodovar replied: "If people are prepared to watch the film with innocent eyes, it's a demonstration of freedom and creativity."

He denied that the character of the rapist was portrayed ambiguously.

"I don't like this idea of judging (the protagonist). I explain who he is and how he is . . . and it's evident that he understands things in another way, and lives in another world," he said.

"I don't condemn him, I understand that he is condemnable . . . it's not so much ambiguity (portrayed in him), but the contradiction in human nature," he said.

Almodovar has in the past sparked outrage among feminists. There was a famously ambiguous rape scene in 1993's "Kika," while 1990's "Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down" had Victoria Abril's kidnapped porn star fall in love with Antonio Banderas's ex-mental patient.

Outspoken ambassador

"Talk to Her" is the 14th film by the director from southern Spain, who has served as an outspoken ambassador for the nation's film industry.

Almodovar, apparently now past the half-century mark although his official biography only says that he was born "in the 1950s," is the forerunner of a new generation of Spanish directors who have managed to make films which are both critically acclaimed as well as box-office hits.

He has paved the way for a new wave of young directors who have revitalized Spain's film industry, including Alejandro Amenabar—whose recent film "The Others" starring Nicole Kidman was a huge critical and public success—Julio Medem, Fernando Leon, Benito Zambrano and Ramon Salazar.

In fact it was Almodovar who was chosen to present Spain's top film prize, a Goya award for best director, to 29-year-old Amenabar earlier this year.

Amenebar, like Almodovar, writes his own scripts and sold a version of his earlier "Open Your Eyes" to Tom Cruise's production company. It was released earlier this year in an English version called "Vanilla Sky" and starring Cruise.

Almodovar can also boast of having launched the careers of actors Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz and Victoria Abril, who appeared in his earlier films. ***Reuters***

Goran Visnjic plays bad guy with a heart in 'The Deep End'

By Stephen Schaefer

IS Goran Visnjic proof that Hollywood can finally see beyond the boundaries of ethnic casting, or is it just that a tall, dark, and sexy guy can be appreciated anywhere there's a camera? All right, don't answer that.

Knack

It's probably the latter, but the 28-year-old Croatian import and "ER" stud has a knack for making directors rethink roles.

For instance, his role in 1998's "Practical Magic" was originally written for an American. And his part in the Fox Searchlight's new thriller "The Deep End," in which Visnjic plays a blackmailer with a conscience, was slated to be an Irishman.

Says David Siegel, who co-directed the film with partner Scot McGehee, "We'd written it for an Irish guy named Donnelly, but we like the quality of having a foreigner whose history you don't quite know."

Visnjic has an instantaneous reaction to the script of "The Deep End." It was incredible storytelling," he says. He was particularly intrigued by his character's shadowy nature, which Visnjic sees as the source of the character's romantic appeal. "I like that he remains a mystery, that there is a sort of unknown about why he acts the way he does. It lets the audience guess at it the same way I had to do in playing him, to bring their instincts to it."

In the following interview, Visnjic tried hard to be nonchalant about his promising future:

How did you get started in "ER"?

I came to the States to be in "Committed" and do the premiere of "Practical Magic." Then, I was about to start packing things and go back to Croatia and my agent called me and said, "The guys in 'ER' asked if you want to be on the show for a year."

I was like, "Are we talking about the same 'ER' 'Yeah, tell them I'm going to think about it. For three seconds!" After about the first or second episode, they decided that they wanted to extend the contract. That's how it is.

Why did you decide to play the sleazy blackmailer role in "The Deep End"?

Because you have a chance of playing a bad guy who is becoming a good guy. In the course of four or five days, you have to make that switch and turn 180 degrees from a bad, sleazy guy, asshole, whatever you want to call him, into a really good guy who is almost like a romantic hero. I was on auditions for this and really wanted it pretty bad.

You have an "ER" moment in "Deep End" when you administer CPR. Do you think that will take the audience out of the film?

We actually discussed it . . . It's completely different than anything you see on television. That scene is a minute and a half and in television you can't do anything like that, it's too much time. It killed any, like sort of "bad" recognition.

To have this comic relief in the film, it's not such a bad thing. It's better the audience relaxes for a minute, even if it's outside the film and is a personal joke to somebody.

Are you mapping out your Hollywood career or are you taking a more casual approach?

One of the major principles of my career was and is (that) basically every job you can get, do it like it's the first and the last in your life. Of course, making the decision what to do and which part to take is important, especially for a foreigner coming to Hollywood with a Croatian accent, which for an American audience seems like Russian. They still have the idea in the head that the bad guy in a 007 movie has the Russian accent. I refuse parts like that because I don't want to be typecast.

Did you fee a lot of pressure when you replaced George Clooney as "ER's" resident hunk?

It wasn't pressure, because they brought on so many new people that year. Ming-Na, Michael Michele, Erik Palladino, me Maura Tierney. So we all felt like a replacement for George.

GORAN. Doesn't want to be typecast.

FOX. Life-transforming decision.

Michael J. Fox believes his illness has made him a better person

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE gotten appreciative feedback on our recent piece on Michael J. Fox and his courageous battle against Parkinson's disease. Readers who want to know more about Michael's battle from his own point of view may want to look up his memoir, "Lucky Man," published recently by Hyperion Press.

Ironic

The autobiography's title sounds ironic. How in the world can Michael consider himself fortunate when he's constantly shaking like a leaf and has had to retire from show business because of his debilitating and degenerative illness?

But Michael sincerely believes that his illness has made him a better person. He admits that, before he was stricken, he was a blithe high-flyer, thinking of and loving only himself. And he was blindly in denial about his illness for the longest time.

—Until it became too obvious and demanding to be ignored. That was when he had to confront himself and his worst fears, and pray that he would survive that rigorous transformation without opting to take the easy way out by drinking himself into a stupor, or committing suicide.

Sterner stuff

Thankfully, he proved to be of sterner stuff than he had thought. From the depths of his desperation, he was able to draw on resources of strength and courage that he never knew he had.

The decision was as life transforming as it was stunningly simple: To think, not of himself, but of the thousands of other Parkinson's sufferers who did not have his celebrity or wealth.

He didn't know if accelerated research would help him in the long run, but there were others younger than he was who stood a bigger chance of benefiting from new medical initiatives and protocols.

Thus, he decided to use his popularity and money to educate the public about Parkinson's, and to fund more research on the degenerative disease.

Sterling examples

This is pretty much what Christopher Reeve has been doing for quadraplegics like himself, and Fox's gambit is working as well as Reeve's. The two actors are sterling examples of how celebrities can use their fame and funds to support worthy causes, to benefit not just themselves but other people as well.

The hope, of course, is that more celebrities will boost important causes even if they themselves aren't sufferers. That way, many more causes can be supported by our celebrities, for the general public's good.

We trust that Fox's shining example will motivate our own, homegrown celebrities to each choose a major cause to boost. They can help all sorts of charities, but they should select only one major cause, so that they can concentrate on it, and it can be identified with them in the public's mind.

Commitment

Imagine what would happen if our celebrities did this for one whole year, with commitment, consistency and focus? Each of those causes would enjoy substantial media exposure, many readers and viewers would know about them. And some of them would be motivated to also support those causes.

The cumulative effect on the national consciousness and spirit would be tremendous. Many of us would be transformed from chronic complainers into selfless givers and, like Michael, we would all be better people for it. Let Michael J. Fox continue to show the way!

Missing Erap

FRIDAY last week, former President Joseph Estrada celebrated his birthday under heavy security in his special suite at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center. For some people, it was a sad scene watching the once most powerful person of the land now humbled under very reduced circumstances.

Proof

For others, it was proof that the so-called system of democracy and justice and equality and the rule of law still works in this country. I don't know about that. What I know is that, whether we admit it or not, we have a spot in our hearts that misses Erap.

For his family and children, especially the little ones: The special even if brief moments of his physical presence—when he played the real-life role of doting father to them, showering them with gifts, and sharing precious time with them in palatial mansions in Baguio, Tagaytay and other exclusive enclaves of the very rich and powerful.

For those kids, Erap is just Dad—perhaps not the kind of regular guy that the dads of their schoolmates are, but they are now at a loss over what plunder, grand larceny, perjury and illegal use of alias are all about. All they know is that daddy cannot be with them anymore because he is in jail. No matter that he is actually in a hospital.

For his coterie of friends, allies, buddies and cronies: the lifestyle seemingly lifted directly from a book of fantasies, where wine, women and song came from a seemingly inexhaustible source. They surely miss the exotic food, replenished 'round the clock, as much as the Petrus, so expensive that it is called the nectar of the gods, and the all-night mahjongg sessions, where the stakes were so high that mere *balato* to friends and some senators ran up to seven figures.

Opinion

Of course, they'd also miss discussing the state of the nation, giving their opinion and advice on the problems of the country,

ESTRADA. Friends and allies have made themselves scarce.

and injecting ideas that, if favored by the president, lined their pockets quite handsomely.

Quite sadly, however, many of these people have become scarce these days, as political expediency has dictated that they distance themselves from the person whose every wish used to be their command. Now, they are scurrying to wherever there's an opportunity for them to lick the boots of whoever can pave their way to the present powers that be.

For his show biz friends: the genuine friendship and kinship he shared with them. The sometimes unscheduled visits he'd pay to the homes of some of them to just talk and eat and laugh and remember the good, old days. Those days must have been a huge nightmare to presidential guards but Erap, as he himself confessed, felt most safe and secure in the company of his show biz friends.

True friends

With them, he knew he was with true friends—people who adored him and never dreamt of stabbing him in the back. Of course, he couldn't help but lavish them with gifts and juicy positions in government and quasi-government corporations—and those, too, are perks to terribly, terribly miss.

For people in show business, Erap was the neighborhood kid who made good in the city but didn't forget the folks back home. He was also the symbol of what

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

they could become.

Quite sadly, however, that proved truer than they had hoped. Erap's rise to the highest position in the land opened a whole new world of possibilities for many show biz people who'd reached a plateau in their entertainment careers—but his downfall also tolled the death knell for many of them who had cast a misty eye at politics.

For the joker in all of us: the endless stream of Eraptions that flooded not just the cell phones of the so-called text generation, but also gossip columns, beauty parlors, breakfast meetings, honkytonks, neighborhood *talipapa*, etc. No one is laughing anymore. It seems, the joke is not just on Erap but on each of us, too.

We also miss the bombast and the flair for drama. Lines like *"Walang kama-kamag-anak, walang kai-kaibigan, walang kumpa-kumpare. Huwag nyo akong subukan."* Or that ultimatum against the Abu Sayyaf: *"Dudurugin ko kayo!"* delivered in camouflage uniform as commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Or that unexpected and very unpresidential call to the TV show "Debate" where he angrily chastised a guest on air, *"Huwag kang sinungaling. Tatamaan ka ng kidlat dyan."*

Of course, there were *kamag-anaks*, and *kaibigans* and *kumpares* who made *subok*; and the Abu Sayyaf has not been crushed to this day; and no lightning struck anyone except, perhaps, Erap himself, who, on that fateful day he left the palace, practically didn't know what hit him.

Show biz lineage

But President Erap was in a class all to himself. His show biz lineage did him well and he used to the hilt the charm he had honed to perfection during the years he spent in front of the cameras and the kleig lights.

We'd also surely miss the political gaffes, the diplomatic faux pas and the feeling of excitement and anxiety we felt each time Erap traveled abroad and there was the very real possibility that he'd put his foot where his mouth was, and make a big fool of himself and the entire Filipino people along with him.

Of course, we also miss the feeling of triumphant glee each time he, like there was a god watching over him, made the grade—not so much for his being brilliant but because there were low expectations and each passing grade was a huge victory.

The Malacañang press corps: They'd most assuredly miss the petty wranglings and bickerings, and the not so petty infighting and backstabbing that went on within the president's official family. Who's In, Who's Out was a daily game and how well one played it suggested his political savvy and access to the corridors of power. A friend told me once, "In the time of Erap, you read the front pages if you needed shock treatment, but you went to the gossip columns if you wanted to be entertained."

Champagne

News photographers and videographers would miss catching the president picking his nose, or toasting and quaffing his champagne too early during diplomatic dinners, or extricating with his pinky fingernail a morsel of meat stuck between his teeth, or dozing off while pretending to listen to the interminable perorations of utterly boring speakers, or throwing a lecherous glance at curvaceous legs or amply endowed female torsos.

For the poor: more than missing the presidential smile and tight handshake, the occasional hug for the all-too-important photo ops, the grocery goodies that tided over the pangs of hunger if only for a day, and the chance to eat with bare hands with the most powerful man in the country, a story they'd tell to anyone who'd care to listen up to the day they die—more than all that, they also mourn the loss of the symbol of their hope.

Observation

Never mind the observation of political pundits that Erap only used the poor—after all, as the poor themselves ask, who doesn't use them, anyway? *"Erap Para sa Mahirap"* wasn't just a political slogan for the great multitude who belong to the so-called great unwashed. It kept alive the hope they all hungered and thirsted to have in their lives.

Truth is, for the poor, hope is more important than food, or a roof over one's head, or a means to earn a living. Hope is more important than man's most basic needs, because hope is the mother of dignity, it is what feeds the soul. And that was what Erap gave to the poor.

May 1 is fast approaching. Perhaps, the people in the present government should learn a lesson or two from Erap—lest they end up sharing the fate they designed for him.

Director Blake Edwards sees Hollywood at new lows

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—"Pink Panther" creator Blake Edwards hits a high point of his moviemaking career recently, but he believes the industry that put him there is reaching new lows.

Edwards, 79, and wife Julie Andrews are A-listers of the Hollywood set, and recently, the Writers Guild of America gave him a Screen Laurel Award for lifetime achievement.

Creative vision

His family's show biz careers date back to silent films, and he is the creative vision behind films from 1959's "Operation Petticoat" to the beloved "Panther" series of the 1960s and 1970s and gender-bending 1982 hit "Victor/Victoria," starring Andrews.

But Edwards isn't so happy with the industry right now. He says star salaries—which can reach upwards of $20 million a movie—are bloated, and money-minded businessmen have usurped the power of creative writers and directors.

"People will say, 'You're a product of another time; you don't understand,'" Edwards told Reuters in a recent interview.

"That's bull——! My brain is as good as it ever was."

BLAKE. Lifetime achievement award.

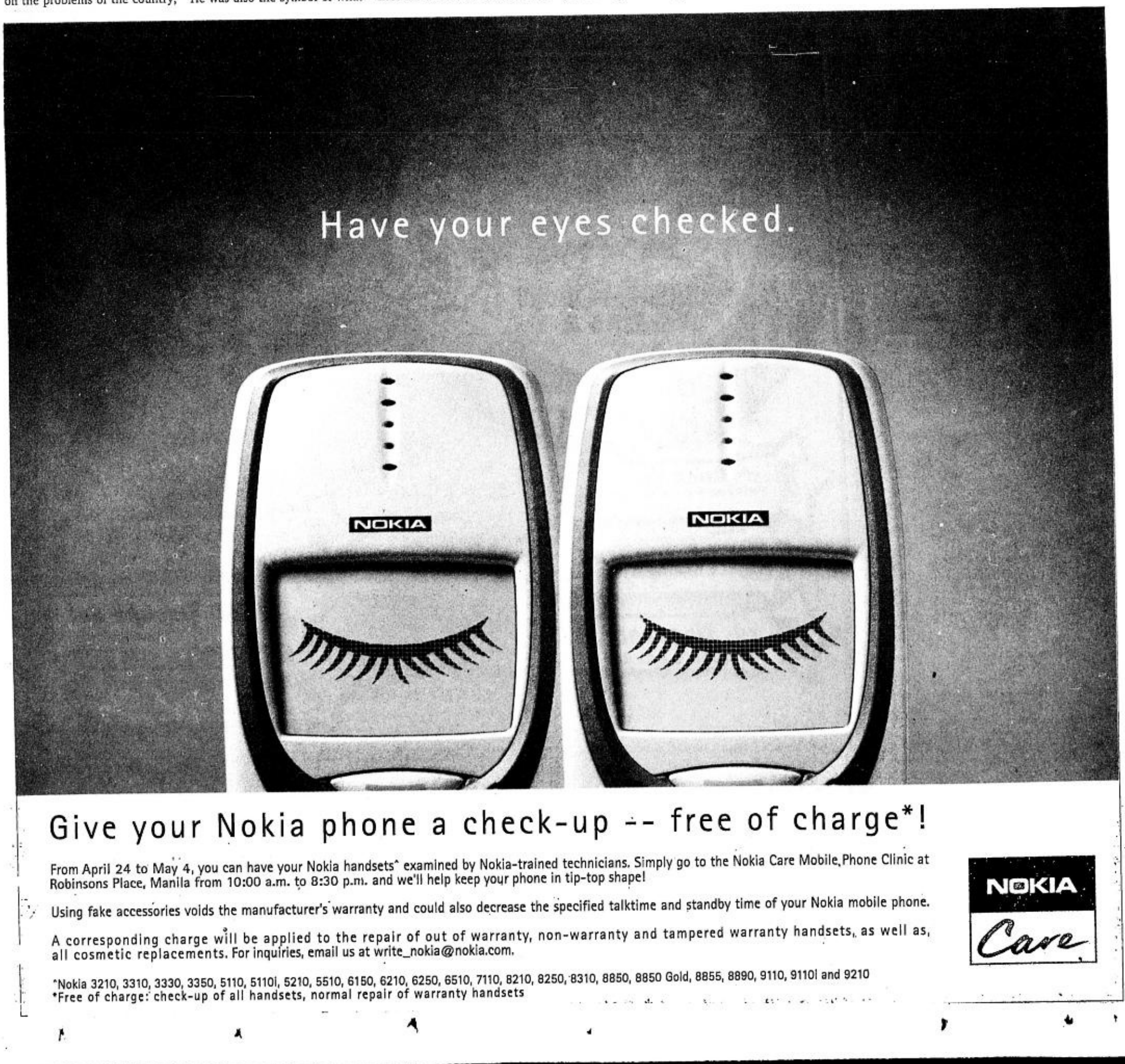
Bull——!, as in Standard Operational Bull——, or "S.O.B." That's the title of his 1981 satirical film about a fading director's vision of reclaiming his career by turning a family film flop into an R-rated blockbuster.

Gimmick

The movie director's gimmick was to persuade a wholesome screen icon (Andrews) to bare her breasts on-screen. If she did, he'd have a hit—sex sells. She did, but the gimmick failed. And Hollywood's conventional wisdom was duped, again.

Edwards considers "S.O.B." among his best work. It gave him

DIRECTOR/ p.C7



Celebrating a love affair with Broadway theaters

"A CHORUS LINE." 1975 hit.

From page C8

done economically. That's a very heavy burden."

And it helps, he says, to put the right show in the right theater.

"To the extent that you are able, you want to get a quality of intimacy," Schoenfeld says. "A big show obviously has to go into a very big theater. The Booth, in my opinion, is the best dramatic theater we have, but very few shows can fit economically into the Booth (785 seats) or the Golden (805 seats) because they are quite small."

This spring, the only Shubert theater not booked is the Broadway, a large house (1752 seats) that is one of the few Broadway theaters actually on Broadway. But next season it will get "La Boheme," a lavish retelling of Puccini's opera, directed by Baz Luhrmann of "Moulin Rouge" fame. The show opens Dec. 8.

And now the Shubert Organization is going to own an off-Broadway theater, too: a 499-seat space located on 42nd Street, west of Ninth Avenue. The theater, under construction and as yet unnamed, will open sometime this fall, Schoenfeld says. *AP*

Director Blake . . .

From page C6

some sweet revenge after his career was skewered in the early 1970s by the very people who once poured him champagne.

"It got a lot of hostility off my chest, and I think it was one of my better writing jobs," he said.

Edwards was a star director in the 1960s after "Breakfast at Tiffany's" with Audrey Hepburn in 1961, and "Days of Wine and Roses" with Jack Lemmon in 1962. He wrote and directed the first two "Panther" movies in the mid-1960s, creating bumbling French Inspector Jacques Clouseau with comedian Peter Sellers.

In the Hollywood tradition of imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is trying to resurrect "Panther," but Edwards isn't sure they can get it done right.

"You've got to find that Sellers first. Most of the really talented comedians don't want to fool with that. They don't want to compete with Sellers. That's history," he said.

Early career peak

The "Panther" movies put Edwards at an early career peak, but early 1970s flops "Darling Lili" (starring Andrews), "Wild Rovers" and "The Carey Treatment" were panned by critics and shunned by audiences. "The Return of the Pink Panther" in 1974 marked the return of Edwards and Sellers to their old form.

"The most fun and the worst times were with Peter," Edwards said. "When he was at the top of his form, he was great fun. When he was in his depressed, angry world, he was impossible."

Throughout the ups and downs, Edwards' comedy always had a biting, sinister edge to it, critics have said.

"In a lot of comedy, there is darkness and an edge. So there is in life. The best humor comes out of unfortunate, black and dark moments," he said.

Edwards last film was "Son of the Pink Panther," and by the late 1990's so-called "gross-out" humor—mostly jokes about bodily functions—had become the craze among young comedy writers.

But the best comedies, he said, have something poignant to say, whether they use gross jokes or not.

"Victor/Victoria," too, is one of his favorite works. It starred Andrews as a struggling soprano who finds work in a Paris nightclub masquerading as a man impersonating women. *Reuters*

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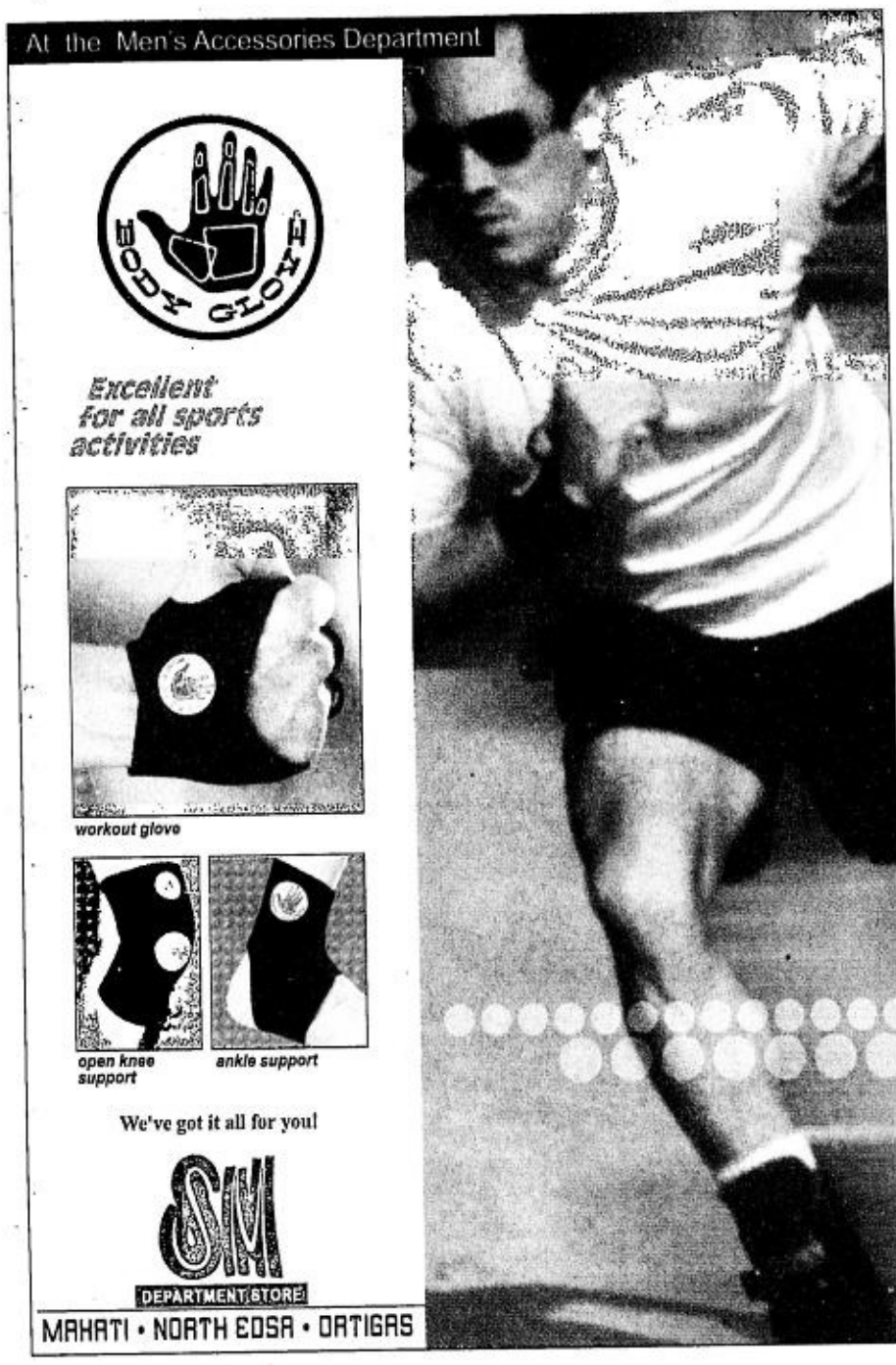
SCHOENFELD AND THE SHUBERTS

Celebrating a love affair with Broadway theaters



By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—Gerald Schoenfeld had never been to the theater before going to work for the law firm that handled business for the Shuberts—the quixotic, combative dynasty that controlled much of Broadway's real estate in the 20th century.

Theatrical empire

"The only Schubert I had ever heard of was Franz Schubert, the great composer," Schoenfeld confesses in the recently published "The Shuberts Present: 100 Years of American Theater," a mammoth coffee table book published by Abrams that celebrates the centenary of the theatrical empire founded by three brothers—Lee, J.J. and Sam Shubert.

It is a lavish book, filled with rare photographs, drawings and sketches that pay homage to the theaters, the last of which, the Ethel Barrymore, was built in 1928.

These days, more than 50 years after his first taste of things theatrical, Schoenfeld runs the Shubert Organization in New York City and around the country. In Manhattan, that means a collection of 17 venerable theaters, ranging from the aptly named Majestic—home of "The Phantom of the Opera"—to the cozy, wood-paneled Booth, where Bea Arthur currently plays to audiences as if she were entertaining in her living room.

Juggling act

For the last 30 years, it has been Schoenfeld's job as company chairman to fill the theaters, a juggling act that requires skill and shrewdness, not to mention a little luck and an appreciation for the stages he is booking.

Luck was what he needed in 1972 when he and another lawyer, Bernard Jacobs, took over the tottering Shubert empire, taking control at a time when Broadway was in decline and more than a few Shubert houses sat empty.

"There were not many hit shows," Schoenfeld says in his straightforward, understated manner. He and

"CATS." Long-running musical at Shubert's Winter Garden Theater.

Jacobs turned things around first with such hit productions as "Pippin" and "Equus," and then, in 1975, with "A Chorus Line."

"It was a bonanza," Schoenfeld recalls. "A bellwether event because it was a product of the not-for-profit theater and the Shubert Organization. That show really changed the perception of the Broadway theater as far as nonprofit theaters were concerned."

Schoenfeld spoke in his office above the Shubert Theatre, built in 1913, in what was once the private apartment of Lee Shubert.

Even getting there is dramatic. Take the tiny elevator from an entrance on Shubert Alley, a midblock passageway that links West 44th and 45th Streets in the heart of the theater district.

An elevator operator lets you out into a world of baronial, "Citizen Kane" splendor: plush carpets, dark wood and polished brass. A seemingly inaccessible balcony that would not be out of place in "Romeo and Juliet" overlooks the scene.

Small opening

Before the interview, the 77-year-old Schoenfeld, dressed in a natty gray suit, gets down on his hands and knees, finds a small opening to crawl through and poses for a photographer on that balcony before the interview.

"A Chorus Line" was followed by "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Evita," "Amadeus," "Dreamgirls," and "Cats," the long-running Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that held forth at the Shubert's Winter Garden Theatre for nearly 18 years.

"The object is to fill these theaters," Schoenfeld says simply, either by producing shows themselves or booking other producer's efforts. "And if you are not in a time of plenty, then you put in whatever you can find."

Schoenfeld used to pick the plays with Jacobs, who died in 1996. "Our judgments and taste were the same," he says. "The rule between us was if he liked it and I hated it (or vice versa) we would not pursue it."

Over the years, the Shubert Organization has produced such distinctive works as the Stephen Sondheim musicals "Sunday in the Park With George" and "Passion" and such plays as "Indiscretions" and most recently, under Schoenfeld's solo guidance, a revival of Strindberg's "Dance of Death," starring Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren.

Fiction

"The idea that great theater can be produced each year is a fiction," Schoenfeld says. "In the theater, we are charged with the obligation of doing something that is artistic and at the same time it has to be entertaining and

CELEBRATING/p.C7

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KORONEL. Has learned a lot from her turbulent personal life.

Hilda Koronel still a refreshing presence on TV

By Edmund L. Sicam

WE first interviewed Hilda Koronel when she was only 14 years old, two years after she entered show business. At that time, she had a weekly drama series ("Hilda") on Channel 9, where despite her tender age, she showed her competence in mature roles.

This is what we wrote in September 1971: "Aside from being a refreshingly lovely person, what makes Hilda Koronel different from TV's other leading ladies? Well, she's young. Fourteen, going on 15. Though many of the roles given her require maturity and experience, she can handle them well with a deliberately underplayed style. No long sighing, dying or crying scenes for this youngster."

Style

That style served her well in succeeding years as she blossomed into one of the industry's finest dramatic actresses in the movies with the help of the late Lino Brocka.

Today, the actress is still a refreshing presence on the boob tube. Her latest assignment is the star-studded "Kung Mawawala Ka" where she plays one of the three wives of Eddie Garcia. The soap, directed by Joel Lamangan, airs weekdays at 8:30 p.m. on GMA.

We spoke to her during a recent presscon for the soap. She was no longer the innocent young thing we interviewed a long time ago. She's older and wiser (she's proud to say she's already 45 years old), saying she's learned a lot from her turbulent personal life.

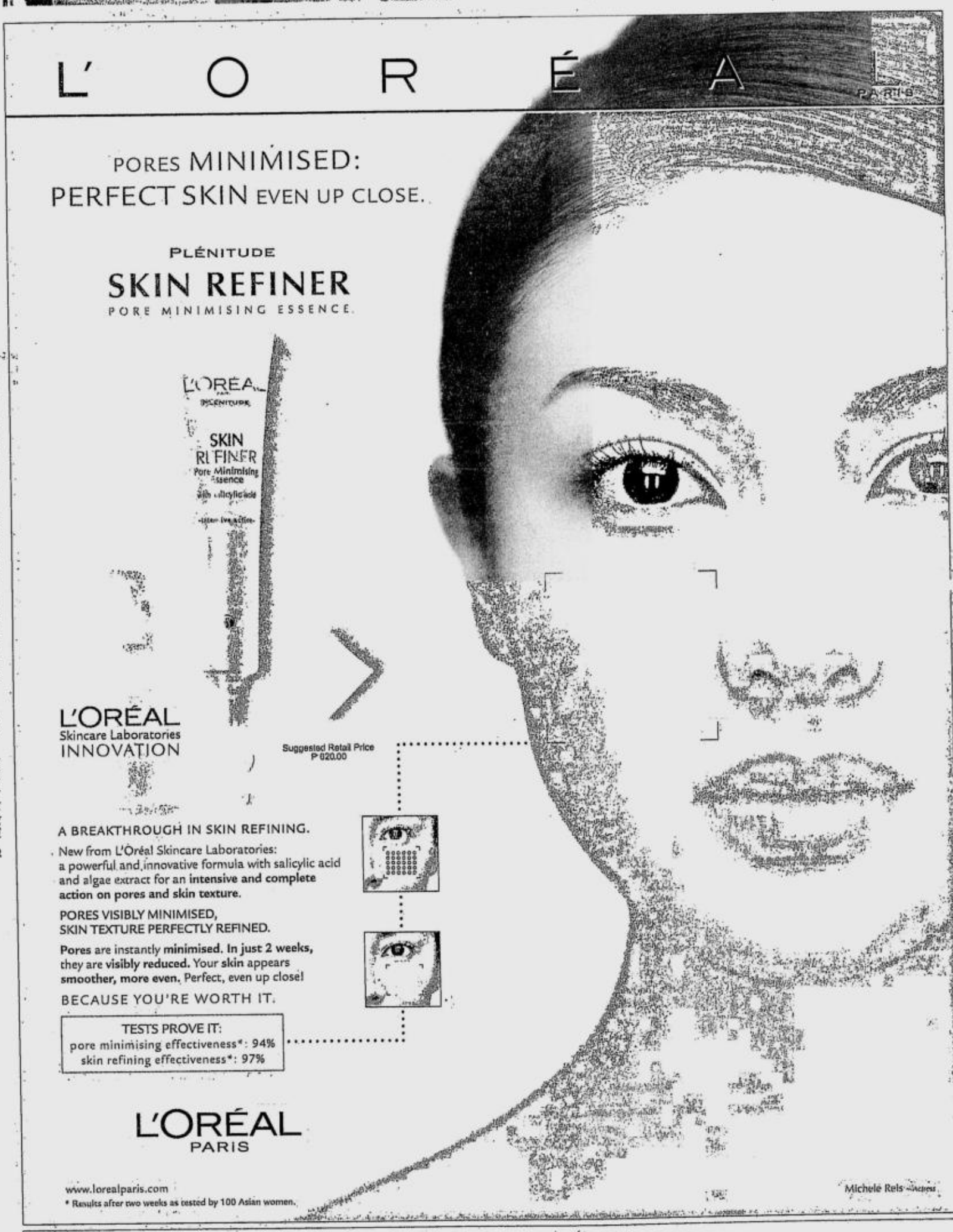
Hilda now leads a more peaceful life with her American husband and her children. As far as her career is concerned, she doesn't miss the days when all she played were lead roles. She has been able to effect a smooth transition to character roles, which assures her longevity in the acting profession.

Here are excerpts from that interview:

How do you describe your role here? Are you a suffering character or *ikaw iyung* . . .

Well, yeah, *sa umpisa, kami iyung pinakamamahal ni* Eddie (Garcia) *kasi kami iyung pinaka hindi mahilig sa pera. Pag in-o-*offer *niya kami,* we say no. *Kami naman iyung kinakawawa ng* first family, specially *nung may nangyari kay* Ed, *mas kakawawain kami*

HILDA/p.D2



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BLACK

Bright prospects for movie incentives bill

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR years now, the Filipino film industry and its supporters in congress have been unsuccessful in getting the incentives bill creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines passed into law. In the meantime, local movies have continued to languish, making the need for the incentives board all the more imperative.

GUILLEN AND LUMBERA. Film Development Foundation's president and chairman, respectively.

Third reading

This year, things appear to be looking up. We hear that the bill was passed by the Philippine Senate on third reading last Monday *and* by the House of Representatives last Tuesday.

What's up next? A joint bicameral committee meeting during which the two versions of the bill will be integrated. Hopefully, the bicameral meet will approve the bill, and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will sign it into law soonest, so that the local movie industry can finally get the help it sorely needs to overcome its many problems.

What has made the movie bill prosper this time? The imaginative and hard work of leaders of the industry, especially the bill's main proponent, the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines (FDFPI), and the bill's committed sponsors in the House and Senate.

The bill's currently bright prospects are the result of a long process spearheaded by FDFPI chairman Bien Lumbera, president Laurice Guillen and other prime movers like Marichu VP Maceda and Marilou Diaz-Abaya as early as May 2001, when the new FDFPI board was appointed.

Things got busier by October last year, when Guillen was chosen as the foundation's president. After being briefed by veteran movie bill proponent Marichu Maceda, Guillen consulted various industry groups on the concerted strategy that should be used to give the bill a better chance of being passed, this third time around.

Armed with this unified stance, foundation officials decided to coordinate with the Senate first. Last November, they went to see majority floor leader Sen. Loren Legarda and Sen. Tito Sotto, chairman of the committee of Public Information.

Active supoprt

They were gratified when, after they were briefed on the industry's grave problems, the senators promised their active support.

When the bill was refiled in the Senate, it was sponsored by Senators Villar, Legarda, Recto and Estrada, among others. In the House, its main sponsors were Reps. Imee Marcos and Cynthia Villar.

In particular, Senator Sotto turned out to be a major supporter of the movie bill. It was initially scheduled for discussion in March 2002, but when the senator realized how pressing the industry's problems were, he had it moved up to January.

The foundation's leaders also visited Rep. Romualdo Vicencio, chairman of the House's Public Information committee, who was similarly amenable to helping the movie bill prosper. With the all-important legislative backing in place, things began to move fast, as the initial hearing was scheduled on the first session day of the 12th Congress.

Co-author

Senator Sotto became a co-author of the bill and spearheaded its progress through the legislative process. The foundation effectively answered the lawmakers' questions with a fact-filled Power Point presentation that speeded up the process even more.

The legislators were open to the plan to create incentives for the industry, like the Council with a board under it that would reward quality films with amusement tax rebates.

The lawmakers appreciated the fact that the foundation had done its homework, and the process went straight to the committee report. Sen. Juan Flavier further boosted the bill's chances by becoming a co-author.

Main proponent

The FDFPI is the movie bill's main proponent because its charter tasks it to "act as coordinator for all activities in government and the private sector that will ensure the effective implementation of the government's blueprint of action for the business orientation of cinema" in this country.

After the Easter break this year, Senator Sotto delivered a privilege speech on the movie bill, which went into plenary session for interpellations. Once again, FDFPI and other officials were present to show their support. Sometime later, the bill was further discussed and approved on second reading.

Incisive observations

Sen. Gringo Honasan came up with some incisive observations, key among which was his concern that the movie incentives law and council be insulated from politics,

BRIGHT p.D6

Hilda Koronel still a refreshing . . .

From page D1

ng todo-todo. With the second (family) also, very assertive *din sila*, and they're also very rich. *Kami iyung pinaka-wala, so kami iyung* target.

Acting-wise, is it harder to be the *api* or *mang-aapi*?

Alam mo, I find *na mas madaling maapi* (laughter), *kasi pag* 'Marinella,' *kontrabida ako, ang hirap laging sumimangot!* (laughter) It was so hard, *lagi kang nakakunot-noo, lagi kang galit. Isip ko, tatanda ako dito!*

Early to bed

Do you watch soaps or listen to soaps on the radio?

Noong maliit ako, sa radio, yeah. *Pero ngayon, maaga ako matulog!* I wake up at around 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. and I'm asleep by 7 p.m. I have to adjust my time, *dati* insomniac *ako! Nagkaroon lang ako ng limitasyon noong araw bago ako nagkaroon ng* pacemaker. *Pero bago noon, nahirapan kasi ako magpuyat. Kaya nawala ako sa* "Marinella," *kasi* it was so hard for me to be on call.

Do you agree that once the acting bug bites you . . .

Hinahanap mo rin, e. Especially if there's a good project in front of you, *mapipilitan kang gawin, kasi bihira iyon dumating.*

Kasi *for some, acting is a job* . . .

It is a job in a way, 'no? But it's also . . . it's an art. I think it's what I was born to do. *Iniisip ko, o sige,* I'll go get another job. (laughs) I'll do this or that, and I go . . . eeeeh . . . *huwag na lang!* (laughs) It's what I'm good at.

***Parang* you don't have to act *naman* to survive in this world.**

Hindi naman. I really like the work I do, specially if it's good. *Kasi nakikita ko.* I'm not going after an award or anything like that. But, what makes me happy is when I hear people say, "Ma'am, *alam niyo iyung* last episode *niyo sa ano, naiyak ako.*" It makes me really feel good *na iyung trabaho ko* was really worth it. *Iyung magdamag kong kakaiyak doon,* it was worth a simple praise *lang na ganoon.* It makes me happy.

New fans

***Parang* you've developed a new generation of fans and followers because of your TV appearances.**

Very *seryoso din iyung mga* fans *ngayon. Tsaka iba-ibang klase, iba-ibang grupo.* I have this artistic group *na noon mga estudyante, mga* teachers, *ngayon meron pa ring ganoon, tapos meron akong group, iyung mga* artist *na gay na memoryado nila iyung mga linya, oo, iyung mga bagong direktor, 'tita, eto iyung linya mo sa . . .' Ina-*acting *nila!* And it's so nice to see that, *kasi* you know they study your films, *talagang kabisado nila iyung mga* punchlines *mo, na hindi ko na maalala!* (laughs)

HILDA (right) with Sunshine Dizon and Eddie Garcia, two of her co-stars in her new soap.

Lino Brocka

Your relationship with Lino Brocka was more than director-talent?

Sa akin, it was more personal than work. *Si* Lino *kasi,* he was like my mother, my father, my sister, my brother, all rolled into one. *Kaya* I was really devastated when I lost him. *Siya kasi iyung kasama ko lagi. Siya iyung nagno-note ng mga hindi ko dapat gawin . . . nagkakaroon din kami ng iritahan minsan, pero* nothing like *nasisigawan ako* or anything.

Lino was always the type *na* very quiet, *kunyari meron akong nagawa,* like when I was younger, there are things *di ba na* when you're young, *hindi mo naiintindihan. Sabihin niya, sa* taping, *meron kang nasaktan na tao doon. Pero hindi ko alam kung bakit.* Then he would explain, *kasi hindi ko talaga naiintindihan* or *hindi ko mahuli.*

Aside from the fact *na* I always have to be . . . *nauuna sa* set! *Hanggang ngayon dala ko pa rin!* Like *kanina, andito ako, ang aga-aga ko,* everybody's like, 'Tita, you're early!' and everybody's panicking *sa* set *pag dumadating ako. Kasi* it's a habit of mine, *nakuha ko sa kanya!* It makes everybody panic. I'm like that *talaga.*

*Siya lang talaga. Kasi, nag-*start *kami pareho.* Twelve *lang ako* in '69. So, *iyon na talaga iyung parang nag-*mold *sa akin sa lahat—sa trabaho, sa* personal, *lalo na sa* personal. *Pag nabubugbog ako ng asawa ko, si* Lino *nandoon, nasusuntok din siya! Sila ni* Orlando Nadres. *Silang dalawa.*

Looking back

Looking back on your life, do you think it's like a soap also?

Ya, worse *pa!* (laughs) *Sabi nga ni* Lino, before he died, *'Gusto ko gawing pelikulang storya ni* Hilda!' *Sabi ko,* no way! Heavy! *Tatlong pelikula kailangan mo diyan!*

Pero *at this point in your life,* tapos na iyung soap?

God, I hope so! At least *malalaki na iyung mga anak ko, isa na lang ang maliit.*

So you think* itong mga nangyari sa iyo, *was it more of your own making?

Mahirap din, kasi nandito ka sa business *na ito tapos iyung asawa mo wala dito. Pero mahirap din na pareho kayo sa* show biz. *Hindi mo rin masabi kung anong tamang kombinasyon, e. Basta noong nagasawa ako ng hindi na artista* after Jay, *mas tahimik na,* right? (laughs) *Hindi,* worse *pa pala! Hindi mo talaga masasabi kung anong mangyayari.*

Decisions

If you were to travel in a time machine and go back to where you started, do you think you would make the same decisions that you made then?

No! (laughter) *Sa* career *siguro, hindi sa* personal life. I really like my job. Sometimes the people you work with *lang talaga . . .* (makes face) *Iyung iba, hindi naman lahat.* 'Cause a lot of them are nice, but some are really *pangit kasama,* some are *walang respeto. Merong mga tao, di mo pagbigyan, masama ka na.* Stuff like that. It's hard!

Nagtataray ka raw sa mga artistang hindi sineseryoso, parang nilalaro lang ang *taping*?

Of course not. In fact, *tinutulungan ko pa nga sila. Iyung mga nagsasabi niyan, mga galit sa akin. Sabi ko, masyado kayo nagbabasa ng mga* magazine. *Kaya tuloy iyung mga batang nakakasama ko ngayon, natatakot lahat sa akin!* (laughter)

Tatanong ko lang naman, 'Anak, bakit ka ba laging late? *Ano ba problema mo?' Kasi ayoko naman talaga mag-antay! Kasi, nag-aantay ka doon, ang tagal-tagal, e hindi naman seryoso ang dahilan. Pero, bahala na si direk ang magsisisigaw doon!*

Walkout

Hindi ka naman nag-*walk-out* dahil *late* iyung kasama mo?

Meron akong once *na muntik na!* (laughter) *Muntik na! Muntik na!* 15 hours *lang naman akong naghihintay.*

Sinoli ko na iyung tseke ko. Inyo na ito, sabi ko, patayin niyo na ako. Uwi na ako. Antok na antok na ako. I was so tired! *Mas gusto kong sunud-sunod ang trabaho ko kesa nakatanga ako.* I get so tired just sitting there, doing nothing. *Pero ratsadahin mo ako tuloy-tuloy, ay,* OK *lang iyon. Nakakapagod pero may ginagawa ka.*

I remember one time, may schedule *ako. Antay, antay, antay. Naka-*make-up *ka na, kuntodo* hairdo, *naka-*dress *ka na, halimbawa alas siete iyon, alas dose na,* 'Ay ma'am, pack up *na ho pala kayo* ma'am, *kasi ho, si* Ms *Ano ho, uminom ng* sleeping pills, *hindi nagising.' E di maiinis ka,* right? *O sige, uwi na nga ako! Ano ba iyan? Ganoon lang! Wala naman akong sinasabi.*

Tapos one time *nga, naghintay din ako,* superstar *din, katagal . .* six hours *na ako nandoon, sabi ko, sige, aantayin ko lang pero aalis din ako pagdating.* (laughs) *Dumating,* kissy-kissy, *ganyan,* 'Sorry *ha, kasi ganito-ganito.' 'O sige, diyan ka na! Uuwi na ako!' Ganoon. Pero hindi ako nagsasalita ng ano . . . E para naman madala, kasi kung lagi naman ginagawa sa iyo, di ba, para ka namang gago!*

Kasi sa akin, respeto e. Hindi kita pag-aantayin kasi importante iyung oras mo sa akin. So para namang ginagago mo ako, parang walang kuwenta sa iyo ang oras ko. Di ba? Sa akin, lahat ng tao pare-pareho.

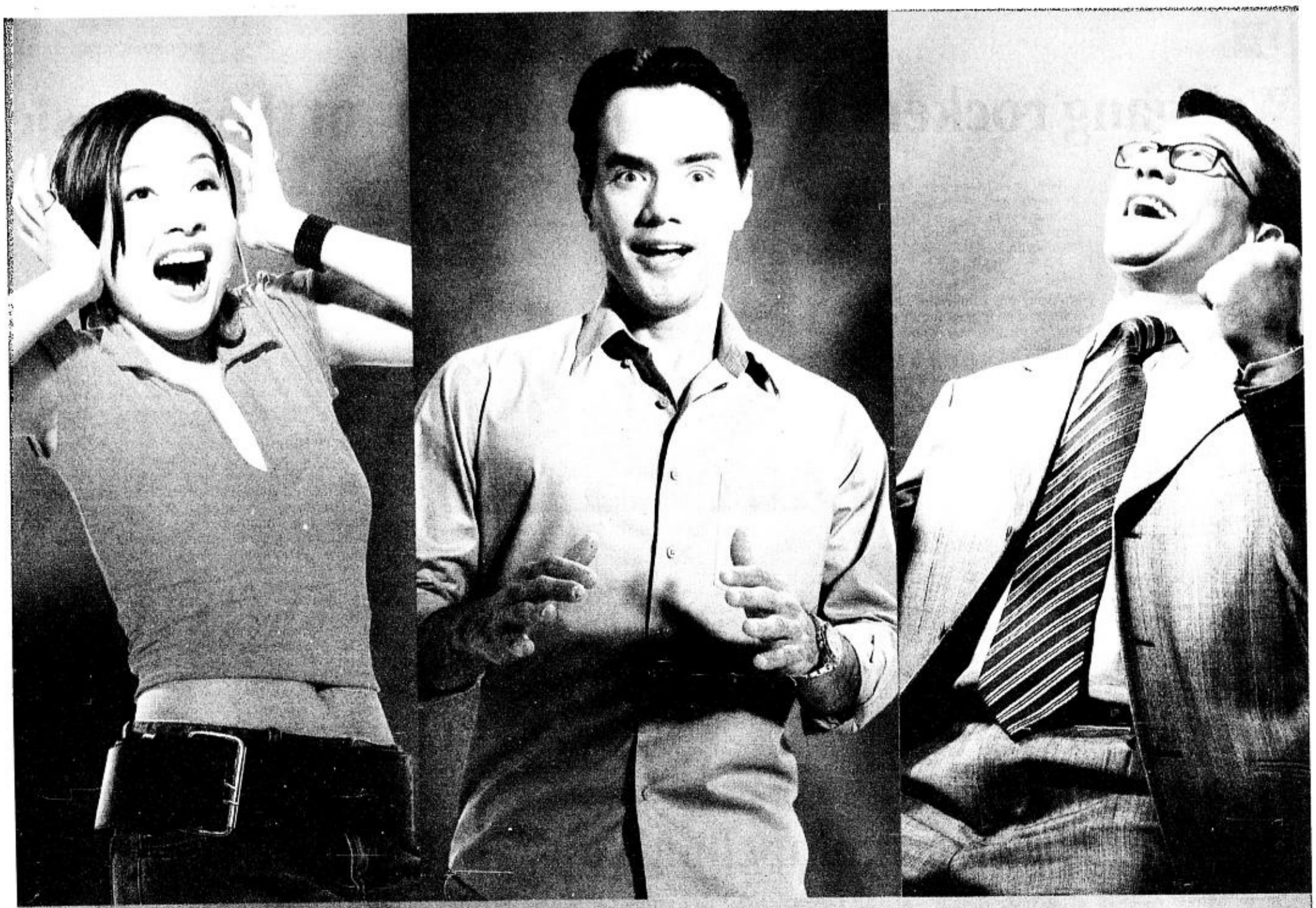
Lead roles

Do you miss the days when you played one lead role after another?

Hindi naman. I think, the way to survive a transition is, you have to take into account that you will fade someday! (laughs) *Iniisip ko na iyon. A, sa susunod, magnananay na ako kasi mamamatay na si ganito, si ganito, si ganito (laughs). Iyon bang pag nawala silang lahat, kokornerin ko iyung* market *na iyon! (laughs)*

***Yung iba na-o-offend pag binibigyan ng mga* mother role . . .**

Ako hindi, kasi nanay talaga ako. Tagal na. Tsaka noong araw pa, talagang nagnananay na ako. Pag feel *ko, sabi ko, magta-*transition *ako! Walang mga* lead role *diyan? E di diyan ako sa mga nanay! O di ba?* You just have to realize, *kasi kung hindi,* you'll be disappointed. *Iinom ka ng alak diyan, magda-*drugs *ka, naku kalimutan mo iyon! Talagang ganon ang buhay!*



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Wolfgang rockers are passionate about their music

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

WOLFGANG has that raw quality that resonates with restrained emotion and angst! It's there smoldering beneath the surface, waiting for the right moment to be unleashed. Music observers claim that the rock scene is dying. But Wolfgang believes otherwise, because their music evolves with the times.

Basti Artadi, Wolfgang's vocalist, smirks, "Led Zeppelin didn't stick to one sound. In their third album, they had a *bigat* song and the rest were all acoustic. Who knows our next album might be all acoustic. We don't know what's going to happen!"

Cult following

Wolfgang began playing at Mayric's, Club Dredd and Kalye and found a cult following in the underground band circuits that played rock amidst the pop-fixated milieu.

"When we started out and until this day, the band scene was saturated with showbands that played '70s pop. No one really wanted to listen to bands playing their own music."

But despite the lack of radio airplay, people still listened to "Darkness Fell," "Arise," and "Halik Ni Hudas," and these singles became monster hits.

They signed with Sony Music as the company's first local rock act and was faced with the challenge of making a second album, "Semenelin."

Fluke

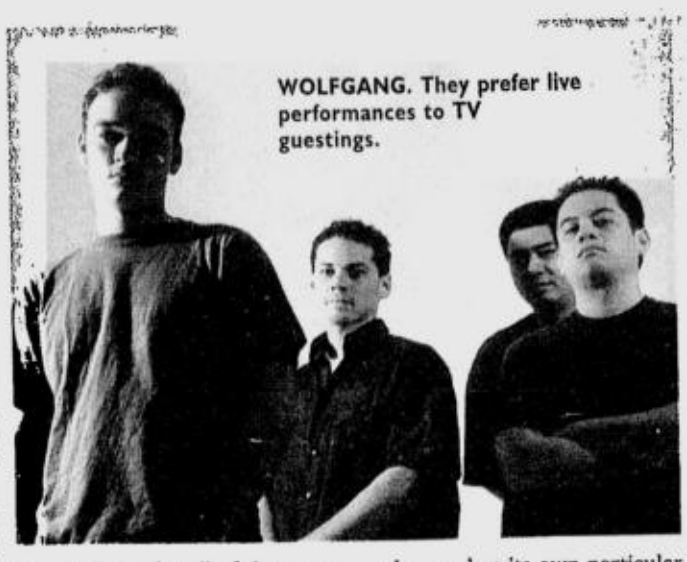
"People were saying that Wolfgang was a fluke, the critics were predicting a second album jinx," Wolf Gemora, drummer, complains.

"We put a lot of effort into 'Semenelin.' I had to concentrate on my writing. In our first album, the lyrics were raw and straightforward. The songs were honest and emotionally charged, but the lyrics were not as well thought out as 'Semenelin,'" Basti continues.

"'Semenelin' carried over a lot of the energy from the first album. But somewhere in there, it branched out. I think it had a lot to do with our collective interest in progressive rock," Manuel adds.

"Semenelin" catapulted the band into the spotlight because of their dark and dynamic sound. "Semenelin" won for them the NU Rock Awards' Best Vocalist, Best Bassist and Best Drummer honors as well as the Listeners' Choice and the Artist of the Year awards.

The next album, "Wurm" was a concept album that came about because Basti's lyrics were interconnected. When Basti was writing the lyrics for all of the songs in their "Wurm" album, he knew that he wanted it to be adapted into a play someday.



WOLFGANG. They prefer live performances to TV guestings.

"The concept is about a normal guy who gets selected as a leader. In the course of his reign as king, he does things that he feels right for him, but then the people start to bring him down because they see in him the faults that they have themselves.

Character

"What I had in mind was that each song in the album should be sung by a character in a play, so each song has its own particular meaning to every character. But since I'm in a band, I can't do that right now."

Basti admits that he tries to put himself in a particular situation when he writes lyrics. For "Alone," he empathizes with the king because he realizes that, no matter what he has achieved in his life, everything would be worthless without a partner to share it with.

Their "Serve in Silence" album brought them back to their roots and put a stop to their progressive rock sound. "With 'Serve in Silence' we went back to our earlier sound. It was more like a fusion between our debut album and 'Wurm' in terms of sound," Basti observes.

Just when they were on a roll, Basti decided to take a break and ventured into theater with "Jesus Christ Superstar." Then they released their live albums, "Soundcheck" and "Acoustica." Between all these, the band found time to record, write and produce their latest album, "Black Mantra," which is richer and more diverse than the albums that preceded it.

Signature sound

"Judas Noose" has their signature sound, only heavier. "Meckam" criticizes people who waste their lives on drugs. "Trenta" again alludes to Judas. "Idlip" is a surprise lullaby done in rock.

They prefer live performances to TV guestings and radio tours because they are not constricting. What are the typical band scenarios that can irritate them?

Basti frowns, "We don't like it when they put the cameras really close to our faces when we guest on TV. We hate lip-synching, we would rather do our songs live."

Wolf adds, "We're frustrated. We were making a lot of money in the mid-'90s before Erap (former President Estrada) screwed everything up. The problem with piracy is also frustrating. We have the best musicians here. It's just boiling and waiting to explode."

And what is the ultimate dream for a band? Is it making it in the international market? Or having a loyal fan base?

Basti grins, "Having loyal followers is definitely an ego-booster, but I don't go home and think about it. Sometimes our songs are met with dead silence but we think that's healthy because they give us a clue about what we have to work on and improve. It just means that we have to jam that song again. We also would like to follow the lead of rock legends like Led Zeppelin, Yes and Rush."

Wolf interjects, "When we don't get it together when we jam and work on our songs, Basti is the first one to panic. He says, 'We're losing it already' then he leaves us to work on the song.

"We're here because we're passionate about our music but we also want our audience to enjoy our performance, that's why we're so intense about getting our sound and music right."

So, even if they're passionate and intense about their music to the point of self-possession, they still need their audience to help their music evolve. More headbanging and alternative music, anyone?

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'Actress' tells a very compelling story

By Noelani Torre

WITH her breathtakingly beautiful face and figure, one would think that most things in life would have come easily to actress Elizabeth Ashley. But beneath her flawless covering is a woman who has suffered through life's hard knocks, as she tells it herself in her autobiography, "Actress: Postcards from the Road" (M. Evans and Company).

Rise and fall

Written during her prime (with freelance writer and editor Ross Firestone), "Actress" is the powerful and very compelling story of Ashley's rise and fall as an actress on stage, film and television, and of the harsh lessons she learned while climbing up and sliding down the ladder of success.

Honest and written in a language that is almost but not quite earthy, "Actress" takes the reader on a fast and jolting ride. Ashley has no qualms about revealing herself—her faults, fears, insecurities. To illustrate, the first paragraph of her book begins thus:

"Last night I came close to breaking. Fear, despair and exhaustion converged on me, and I had no resources left to fight back. I was dry. Wrung out. Mentally, physically, and emotionally wasted."

A veteran actress of stage and screen, Elizabeth Ashley was a leading Broadway star during the 1960s, with a Tony Award for her performance in Art Carney's "Take Her, She's Mine."

Triumph

She followed this triumph up with another leading role opposite Robert Redford in Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park." She then ventured into film, co-starring with then-husband George Peppard in "The Carpetbaggers."

However, after the 1965 film "Ship of Fools," Ashley dropped out of acting for five years. She began reviving her career in 1970 but wasn't getting much notice until her searing portrayal of Maggie in the 1974 revival of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." It compelled critics and audiences alike to sit up and pay attention.

Since then she has been a character actress in film and on stage, and younger fans may still remember her for her role as husky-voiced Aunt Frieda in the television series "Evening Shade."

In "Actress," her famed strong and feisty personality asserts itself as she recounts how at 23 she had had the world at her feet, and how she subsequently lost it, along with her illusions about the game of success.

Beautiful, talented and ambitious but still very insecure about her worth, Ashley stopped doing what she wanted to do most—acting—for five whole years. Married to Hollywood star George Peppard, she "busied [herself] with being a professional wife"—until their relationship disintegrated and she realized that she had to act again.

Struggle

In her narration of the struggle between personal integrity and the success system, Ashley states boldly, "[T]he rules of the game are not structured to produce an artist. They are structured to produce a star for profit. They are structured for achievement, for success.

"So, if you have it in you to become an artist, if you have it in you to achieve, there comes a time when being a star and a success are revealed as empty and meaningless. They cannot make you happy in your work. And if a performer is not happy in his work, he can never be happy in his life."

This is one of the many insights she shares in the book. Insights that have obviously required a great deal of painful experience before they were gained.

When she learned that she had been fired from a movie she was supposed to be working on after "Ship of Fools," Ashley came to the conclusion that her Mama was wrong when the latter told her that one's pride and honor are the only things one has any control over.

"If you want to play in the big ballparks," she wrote, "your pride will be the first thing they'll go for. Anywhere in the world, the profiteers operate on a very accurate assumption, and that is if they can get your pride, if they can buy it or steal it, then you are theirs. They own you.

"If you don't want to sell them your pride and you won't give it away either, that's okay with them. But you don't get to play."

Advice

So her advice is to get rid of that pride. It only gets in your way. Play ball, and be busy again."

Along with the events of her flamboyant and colorful life, we are given a picture of the sort of film and theater that was being one then, and how the actress played their dirty and convoluted casting games.

At the end of her book, Ashley shares with us one of her most important discoveries about herself and being and actress:

"I feel strong and brave on the stage, and I don't feel especially strong or brave anywhere else. The only strength and courage I have when I'm not on the stage are the excess left over from having been there.

"If the day ever comes when they won't let me go out there any more, I don't know what will happen to me. They'll have to kill me. They'll have to club me to death.

"But then, as a performer, you never know. It could be tomorrow that everything changes and you may never get a good job again. You may never get *any* job again. When you're hot, you're hot. When you're not, you're not. That's the way it goes."

ELIZABETH Ashley's autobiography traces her rise and fall as an actress on stage, film and TV.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 27 – MAY 5

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 'F' 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Tickets 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Star For a Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	7:00 Explorer 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Nearly Famous 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Movies on El
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanalaym 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Oil The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Special 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 El News Weekend 10:30 El Coming Attractions 11:00 In Focus 12:00 Movies on El
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondants	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Formula 1 Racing	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 El Original Specials 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 El Specials 11:00 Wild On
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	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Wrestlemen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Ben Bote Nga 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:00 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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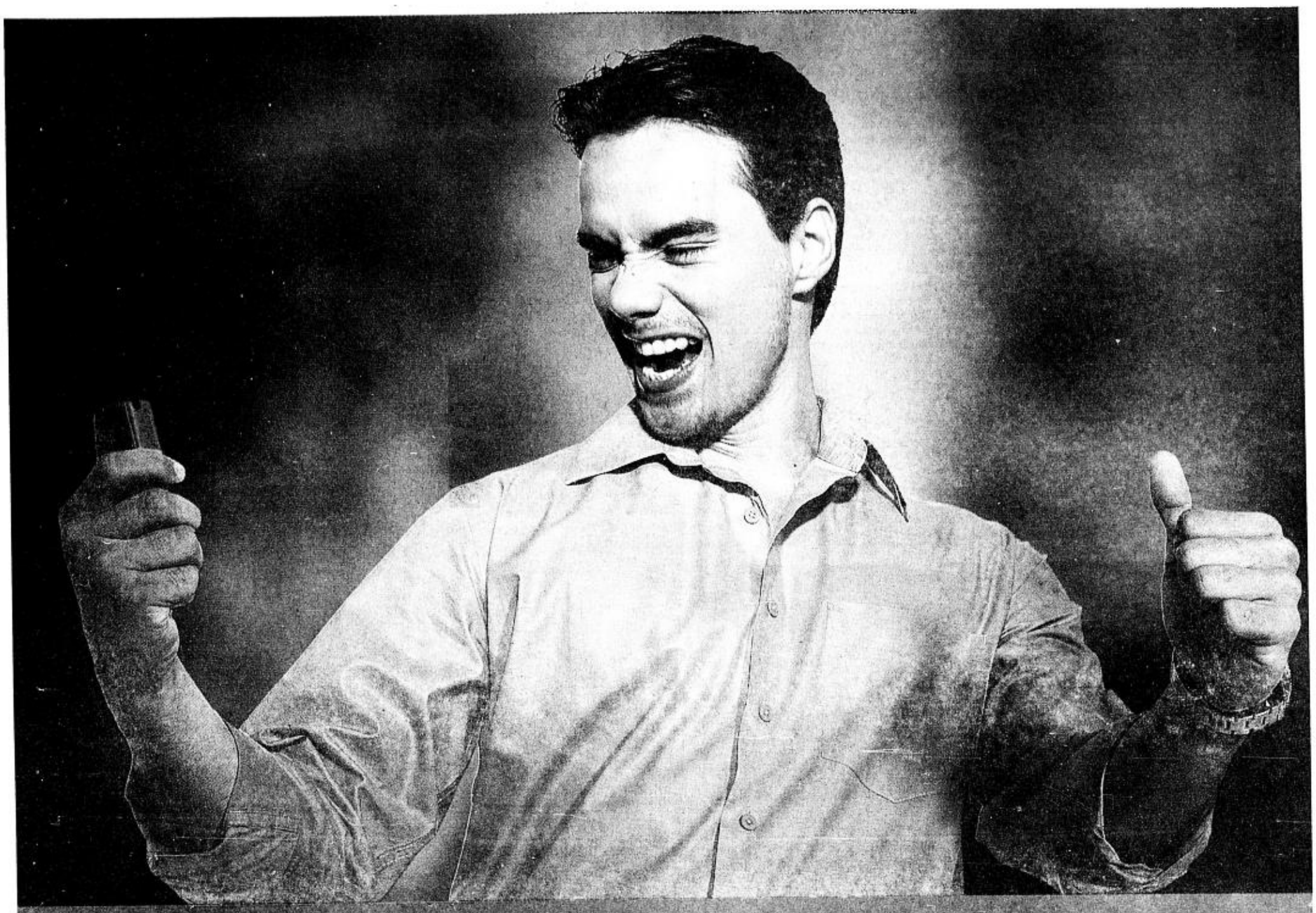
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Survivor 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On



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Nokia 3310	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	6,480	5,190	4,840	4,390	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	3,000	1,000	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	5,790	5,490	5,140	4,690	4,500	3,500	2,500	1,500	FREE	3,500	1,500	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD75	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	6,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	7,990	7,390	7,040	6,590	6,500	6,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	6,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3350	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	500	FREE	FREE	8,090	7,790	7,440	6,990	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	1,500	5,500	3,500	3,000	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 5210	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	—	—	—	—	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	6,000	6,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens ME45	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	3,500	FREE	—	—	—	—	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	9,500	8,500	8,500	6,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	FREE
Siemens SL45	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	6,500	2,500	—	—	—	—	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	11,000	15,000	13,000	12,500	11,500	9,500	6,500	7,500	5,500	4,000	2,000
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500
Nokia 8855	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	17,000	13,500	9,500	—	—	—	—	23,000	22,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	20,000	19,500	18,500	16,500	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,000	9,000
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Nokia 9210	36,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	29,000	25,500	21,500	—	—	—	—	36,000	34,000	33,000	32,000	30,000	34,000	32,000	31,500	30,500	28,500	27,500	26,500	24,500	23,000	21,000

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1422, Series of 2002.

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A United Film Industry for Committed Filipino Cinema

WE, the undersigned Filmmakers and Workers for the Philippine Motion Picture Industry, express our support for Senate Bill No. 2049 creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines, sponsored by Senators Sotto III, Aquino-Oreta, Legarda-Leviste, Villar, Jr., Recto, Ejercito-Estrada, and Osmeña (J.) and House Bill entitled, "An Act Creating the Film Development and Incentives Board, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes" sponsored by Congressmen Marcos, Villar, Jarnula, Zialcita, Escudero, Vicencio, Andaya, Ledesma, Fallon, Barbers, Apostol, Roman, Solis, and Maza.

These Bills seek to create a nurturing economic and cultural environment that will encourage the best in the film industry.

The prohibitively high taxes imposed by both National and Local Governments on the production and exhibition of Filipino films have forced producers into making movies that are primarily geared to make a profit at the box-office.

It is, therefore imperative that a system of tax incentives be initiated in order to encourage and explore the new artistic and economic horizons that the production of alternative and quality Filipino films will bring.

Looking forward to a future of renewed vitality and artistic maturity for the industry with the creation of a new Film Development and Incentives Council, we dedicate ourselves to a Filipino cinema committed to the social and cultural transformation of our people.

FILM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (FDFPI)
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Lauren Dada, President
Mary Ann Hontiveros

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE (IFFCOM)
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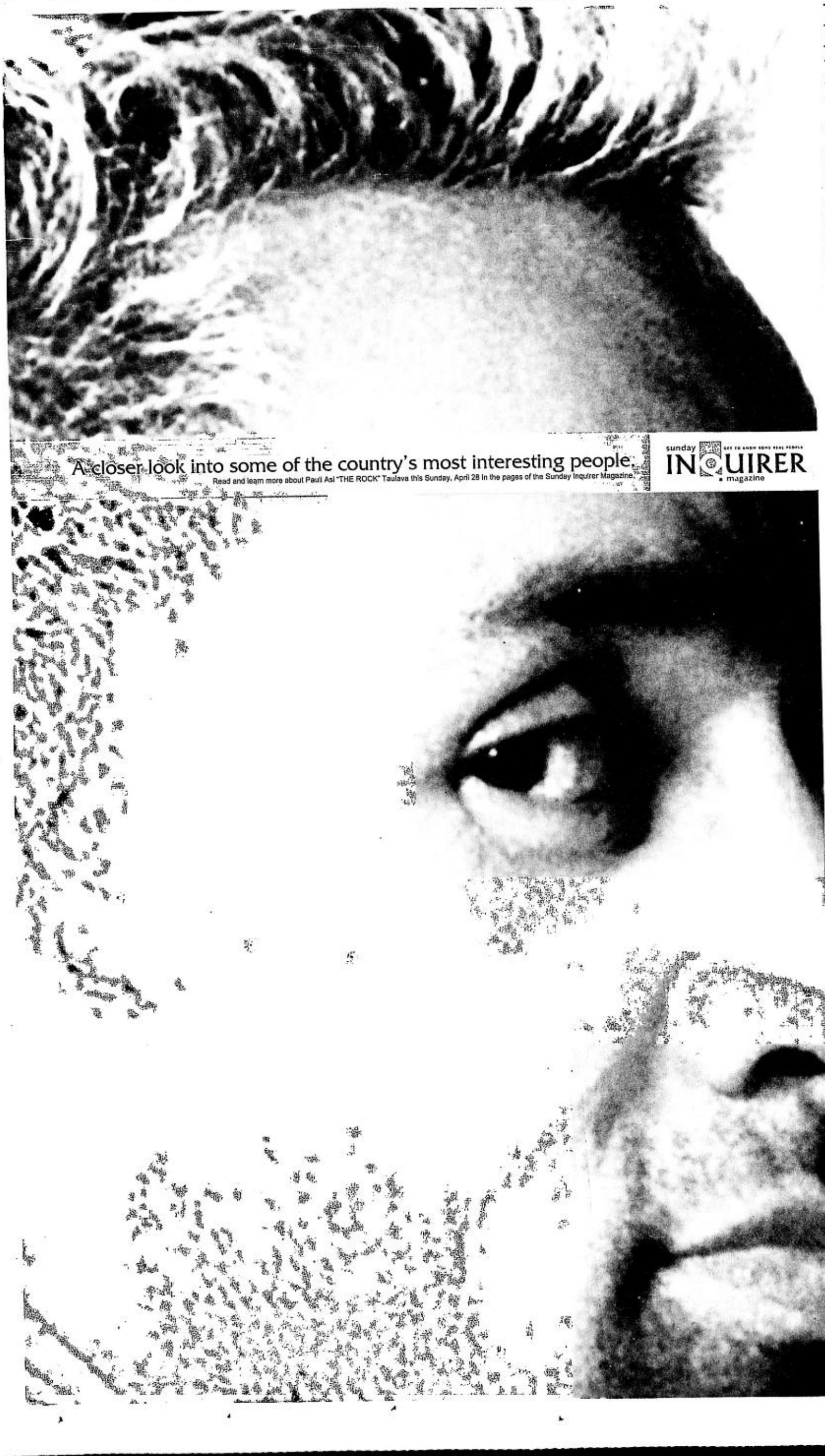
Fernando Poe, Jr.
Rita Subosa
Susan Roces
Cilenda Romain
Gloria Romero

PART of the ad (left) affirming movie workers' united stand in support of the movie bill, signed by some of the prime movers of the Filipino film industry.

CHARLENE Gonzalez and Marichu Maceda with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Tito Sotto.



Bright prospects for movie incentives bill

From page D2

a sentiment vigorously shared by the FDFPI leaders and many people in the movie industry.

As you can see, the movie bill's encouraging showing now is the result of long, creative planning and hard work, This was particularly clear when the foundation came out in this paper last March 10 with a full-page ad of support for the bill ("A United Film Industry for Committed Filipino Cinema"), signed by most of the top movie people in the land, including Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy, Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Susan Roces, Charo Santos-Concio, Lily Monteverde, Chito Roño and Cesar Montano.

The collective show of support impressed our legislators and further hastened the bill's progress. Getting all of these signatures was a major effort that kept the foundation's staffers busy for weeks, but it bore impressive fruit.

Beneficial effects

For these and other reasons, the movie bill is close to being passed, and its beneficial effects augur well for the movie industry's recovery starting as early as this year. That's good news, indeed.

But our movie people should not relax in their continuing efforts to get the bill passed and signed into law. Too much is riding on it for out film workers and their audience for industry leaders to take it easy now. And so, even if the happy denouement is in sight, the hard work continues.

SENATOR Sotto with director Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Charlene Gonzalez.

Maki Pulido and Jay Taruc's defining moments

From page D7

applies the same rules to his documentaries, while trying to present life as it is. "*Na dapat maamoy at maramdaman ito ng* viewers," he points out. He feels that he's able to achieve this through immersion.

For his story on the woodcutters of Quezon, for instance, Jay tried to live like his case studies. "*Mabigat talaga 'yung mga trosong binubuhat nila*," he winces. For his "Isla" documentary, he accompanied a young woman as she went back to her hometown in Siquijor, from which she escaped years ago.

To make his documentaries truly vivid, he injects his love for the visual medium, resulting in the dynamic marriage of moving thoughts and images.

Maki Pulido and Jay Taruc's defining moments

By Jocelyn Valle

TEN years ago, broadcast journalism was not in Maki Pulido's and Jay Taruc's sights. In fact, Jay didn't want anything to do with the profession of his father, veteran broadcaster Joe Taruc. He was enrolled in a pre-dentistry course at the Centro Escolar University, he had a band, and he wanted to be a rock star.

Lawyer

Maki, on the other hand, was aspiring to become a lawyer. She had majored in film at the University of the Philippines because she thought it was the easiest pre-law course. She may be right, but she didn't make it to the UP College of Law.

As luck would have it, both Maki and Jay found themselves at GMA 7's News and Public Affairs department in 1994. Maki was on a three-month training stint and Jay was a researcher for "Brigada Siete." (After a year of pre-dentistry studies, he had shifted to AB Mass Communications, major in broadcasting, and eventually got a job at RPN 9 as a production assistant after graduation.)

Today, Jay and Maki, along with Vicky Morales and Howie Severino, contribute one documentary each month to Channel 7's Monday-night program, "I-Witness," aside from working as fulltime news reporters.

First story

"I asked my boss to give me a chance to do a documentary," replies Maki when asked how she became part of "I-Witness." Because unlike Jay, Vicky and Howie, who had presented a few stories even when the original quartet (composed of Jessica Soho, Mike Enriquez and Che-Che Lazaro, who each have solo shows, and Luchi Cruz-Valdes, now with ABS-CBN) was still at the helm of the documentary program, Maki's first story was aired only in January this year.

PULIDO AND TARUC. Come up with one documentary each per month for "I-Witness."

She's been covering news events for almost eight years and she felt she was ready to tackle a longer and more in-depth format. In October last year, she got her wish. On top of her list of subjects was one about women warriors in Mindanao.

"The pressure was in proving to my bosses that I could hack it," she recalls. As a reporter assigned to the defense beat for several years, Maki had become familiar with the conflict and hot spots in Mindanao, thus she was confident that she could rely on her sources and, in the process, come up with a fine first documentary.

For her next stories (she's done three so far), Maki tried to be more daring and chose topics that were completely new to her: homemade guns ("Paltik") and horseracing ("Karera"). In fact, it was only during the first day of shooting the racing documentary that she was able to watch a horserace.

Reaction

A topic has to excite Maki for her to be able to get a story out of it. "And," she adds, "*kailangan may sinasabi tungkol sa* society. It should also provoke a reaction that will prompt the government to take action."

Unfortunately, Maki hasn't met her last requirement yet. That's what she's working hard on her next assignments. "Every day is a learning experience," she says, smiling.

Maki can take her cue from Jay, whose past stories have yielded positive results. For instance, his Peabody-winning child-labor report for "Brigada Siete" not only exposed the horrible malpractice but also chronicled the police's rescue of the hapless kids.

Prior to that, he did a story about an Ateneo de Zamboanga student who was stabbed dead in a restroom. What he thought was a simple crime report turned out to be the catalyst for the eventual capture of the attacker.

A defining moment, indeed, that gave Jay every reason to believe that broadcast journalism is his true calling.

"*Iba ang* fulfillment," Jay enthuses about the rewards that his work gives him. "Complete *ang* feeling. It can also be an effective tool for change." He

MAKI/p.D6

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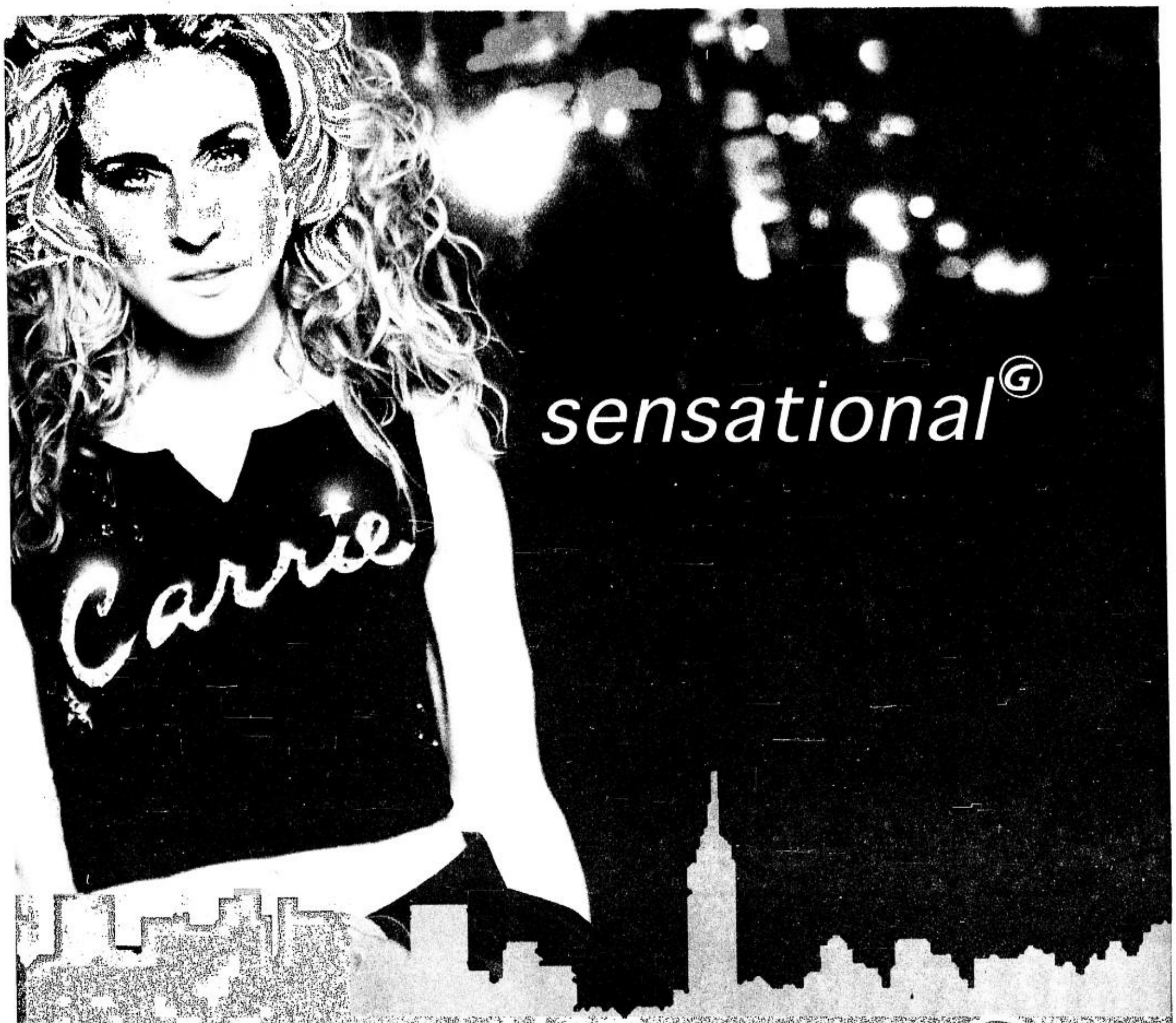

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SATURDAY Special

Martin Nievera reveals the imbalance in his life

By Edmund L. Sicam

MARTIN Nievera and Maximedia Entertainment are putting up another concert series at Onstage Greenbelt starting on May 10, after Martin's very successful 30-night run late last year. Coming from his sold-out concerts last year, Martin feels that everything is going well for him, as far as his performances are concerned.

"I did it already, I've got nothing to prove. I don't have to beat 30 shows, that's not my goal. My goal is to entertain you each evening and to consider every show, as if it were

MARTIN/p.E2

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To join promo and know mechanics & prizes	WIN VK
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To check how many download / Trivia / Sine raffle numbers you have	RAFFLE VKDL / VKTRIVIA / VKSINE

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SINESTORYA
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TRIVIA QUIZ
Find out how well you know the movie. Sagutin ang questions about the movie by keying in PLAY VKTRIVIA, then send to 239.

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Logos, ringtones, picture messages and screen savers – P12.00;
Games – P2.50

See flyers for details

Mechanics

1. From April 21 up to midnight of April 30, 2002, all Talk 'N Text and Smart Movie Club members who answers the Trivia Quiz correctly or successfully downloads a logo, pic or ringtone gets one (1) trivia or download raffle number.
2. From April 21 up to midnight of May 8, 2002, all members who complete a successful transaction for the SineStorya Game will receive one (1) electronically-generated sine raffle number.
3. The top one hundred (100) subscribers with the most number of trivia raffle numbers will each win a movie pass good for two (2) for the regular showing of the movie.
4. The top twenty (20) subscribers with the most download raffle numbers each win an original soundtrack CD and an autographed movie poster.
5. The top ten (10) subscribers with the most number of sine raffle numbers win a gift certificate from Music 21.
6. Winners shall be notified thru a voice call to their registered cellfone number and must present their active Talk 'N Text or Smart cellfone with the winning SIM number and valid IDs with photo to claim their prizes.
7. Promo is for GMA only.

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Memorable highlights of Padre Pio's saintly life dramatized

By Andy Bais

NESTOR U. Torre's new play, "Sundin and Loob Mo: Buhay at Pag-aalay ni Padre Pio" is being toured all over the country to honor the well-loved priest and confessor, in time for his canonization as the newest saint of the Roman Catholic Church on June 16, 2002.

Novitiate

The play focuses on the memorable, inspiring and instructive highlights of Padre Pio's saintly life. He was born poor on May 1887 in Pietrelcina in the southern Italian province of Benevento, and entered the Capuchin novitiate in Morcone in 1908.

That early, stories were already being told about his "superhuman" asceticism and devotion to God, to the extent of his subsisting for weeks at a time on little else than the holy host he would partake of each day at communion.

Ordained a priest in 1910, Padre Pio impressed parishioners with his love for the Eucharist. Hearing his masses, they felt much closer to God than at any other time. It was like he was experiencing the passion of Christ himself.

Confessor

He was even more celebrated as a confessor, with literally hundreds of thousands of souls benefiting from his insightful advice in the confessional.

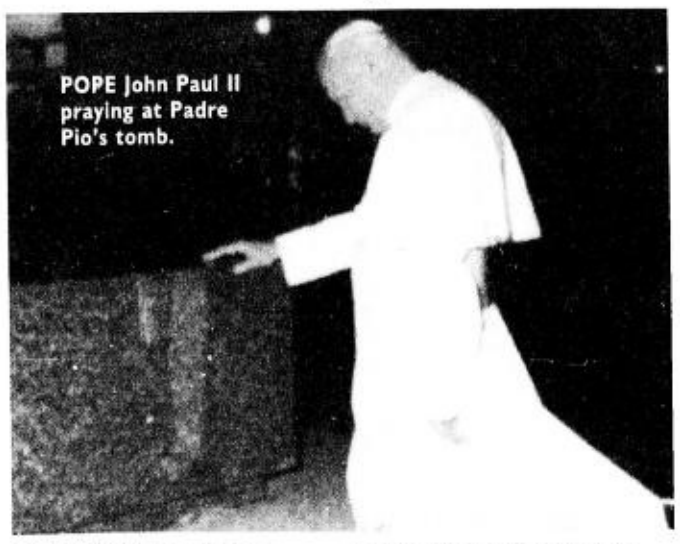
As the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano described it, "His confessional was a tribunal of mercy and firmness. Even those who were sent away without having absolution had, for the biggest part, anxiety to return and once again find peace and comprehension, while a new period of spiritual life opened for them."

Credited with the charism of being able to see into people's souls, Padre Pio reconciled thousands upon thousands of lifelong sinners with God, by hearing confessions as long as 15 hours in one day, thus ending up being called "the martyr of the confessional."

Stigmata

But even his fame as a confessor was eclipsed when he was given the stigmata, the wounds of

THE WOUND on Padre Pio's hand is inadvertently shown as he gives his blessing after mass.



POPE John Paul II praying at Padre Pio's tomb.

Christ's passion, on Sept. 20, 1918. He was the first priest to be so blessed. The five painful wounds remained open and bleeding for 50 years!

Padre Pio was also celebrated for his healings, his powers of bilocation (being in two places at the same time), and his absolute sense of priestly obedience.

This was tested to the limit in 1931, when, ostensibly to preserve order in the monastery and to keep away the tumultuous streams of pilgrims who wanted to be blessed by him, Padre Pio was suspended from all of his priestly duties, except for his daily masses, which he was allowed to offer privately.

Lifted

The prohibition was lifted before he died, but he suffered greatly because of it. And yet he accepted and endured it in absolute silence and supreme obedience.

On Sept. 22, Padre Pio celebrated his last mass, and he died the following day. He had lived such a saintly life that the preparation of his Cause for Beatification and Canonization was begun after only one year.

On Dec 18, 1997, less than 30 years after his death, Padre Pio obtained the title of Venerable, the first major step toward sainthood.

Beatification

On May 2, 1999 his Beatification was proclaimed at the Vatican by Pope John Paul II. And, on June 16 this year, he will finally become Saint.

Padre Pio lived a difficult life, but he has won the love of the Catholic world with his combination of humanity and spirituality, his love for Jesus and the Eucharist, his miraculous charisms, and his simplicity and profound obedience.

Much can be gained from an empathetic appreciation of his life, as dynamically dramatized in Torre's "'Sundin and Loob Mo'—Padre Pio." If you want the inspiring play to be performed in your locality, call Pablo at 713-9323 or 0917-9893089.

Martin Nievera reveals the imbalance in his life

FROM PAGE E1

opening night. That's why it's called 'Opening Night,' Martin says enthusiastically.

Pressure

The entertainer says he does feel the pressure of putting up a show that will keep the audience coming back. Since he did so many shows last year, and he says his audience expects a certain kind of show from him, he finds it very difficult to come up with a repertoire with just the right number of old songs, new songs, expected songs and hoped-for songs.

"I'm definitely very nervous," admits Martin. "What's new here? Seals and Croft. I've never done Seals and Croft. Barry Manilow . . . a new Broadway medley . . ."

Martin admits that what really tires him out is trying to please everybody. Still, he realizes that this is part of his job. "You cannot be No. 2 in the Philippines, you have to be No. 1. I'm not saying I'm No. 1. I'm saying I have to be," clarifies the concert king. "For as long as you have an artist who wants to be No. 1, that's a nice show to watch. *Gutom pa rin siya.*

"Hindi pa ako sawa. Hindi ako busog, gutom pa," promises Martin.

"Everything is smooth sailing from now on," he declares. "There's never a downhill in an artist's life. It's always uphill, it's always a climb." Martin just came from what he calls a very successful concert tour of the United States and Canada. He is very excited about his next project—a CD—which will be launched on July 5, his 20th anniversary in show biz.

Special CD

What makes this CD extra special is that it will have at least five songs in it written by Brian McKnight, just for Martin. Martin shares, "Brian McKnight says, 'Yaw ma boy!' (I asked) 'Should I arrange it?' 'You do what you want with the songs.'" So Martin says he will be rearranging some of the songs because the pitch given by Brian McKnight is just too high for him. Martin has nothing but praises for McKnight's contributions to his album. "Beautiful! I told him, 'Brian, it's like you knew me!'"

So it looks like everything is indeed smooth sailing for Martin? Wrong. Martin says that he has an imbalance in his life, which was pointed out to him by a mutual friend of his and Katrina's (his girlfriend). This friend told him, "*Parang walang* balance *iyung saya mo. Masaya ka sa* career *mo, pero hindi ka masaya sa* personal."

Martin explains that this is because Katrina is now in Las Vegas where she works as a teacher. "We're never physically together," he starts to clarify, "I haven't asked her to marry (me), we don't have any children together—(but) we have a new cocker spaniel!"

Martin explains further: "We don't have the '24/7, I'm there' kind of relationship. It's not a regular and normal relationship to the point where there are moments of frustration. I'm very caught up in my own world and my pace is faster than hers. Then of course, there's the whole I-have-a-family, I-have-an-ex-wife, a-career. Any girl who's with me now will have to share me with everybody, which is so hard to do."

Impasse

So their relationship is at an impasse. Martin says he does not want to ask Katrina to give up her dreams just to be with him. Neither is he willing to give up his dreams, especially now that his career is flying high. "*Anong gagawin ko*? *Igi*-give up *mo iyung* career *mo sa* Philippines for love alone? What I'm saying is I'll be with Katrina and then I'll blame her for my unhappiness, 'cause I'm happiest onstage!" the singer sighs in frustration.

"Katrina's too good for me. I can't believe she's still around," expresses Martin candidly. "She's very *malambing*, she's very caring. I'd love to be on her side, (rather than) against her." Martin is in awe of his girlfriend's determination to pursue her dream of being a teacher. "She's a fighter! I don't know too many women in the Philippines, even men, who set a goal and go for it," he shares.

Clarification

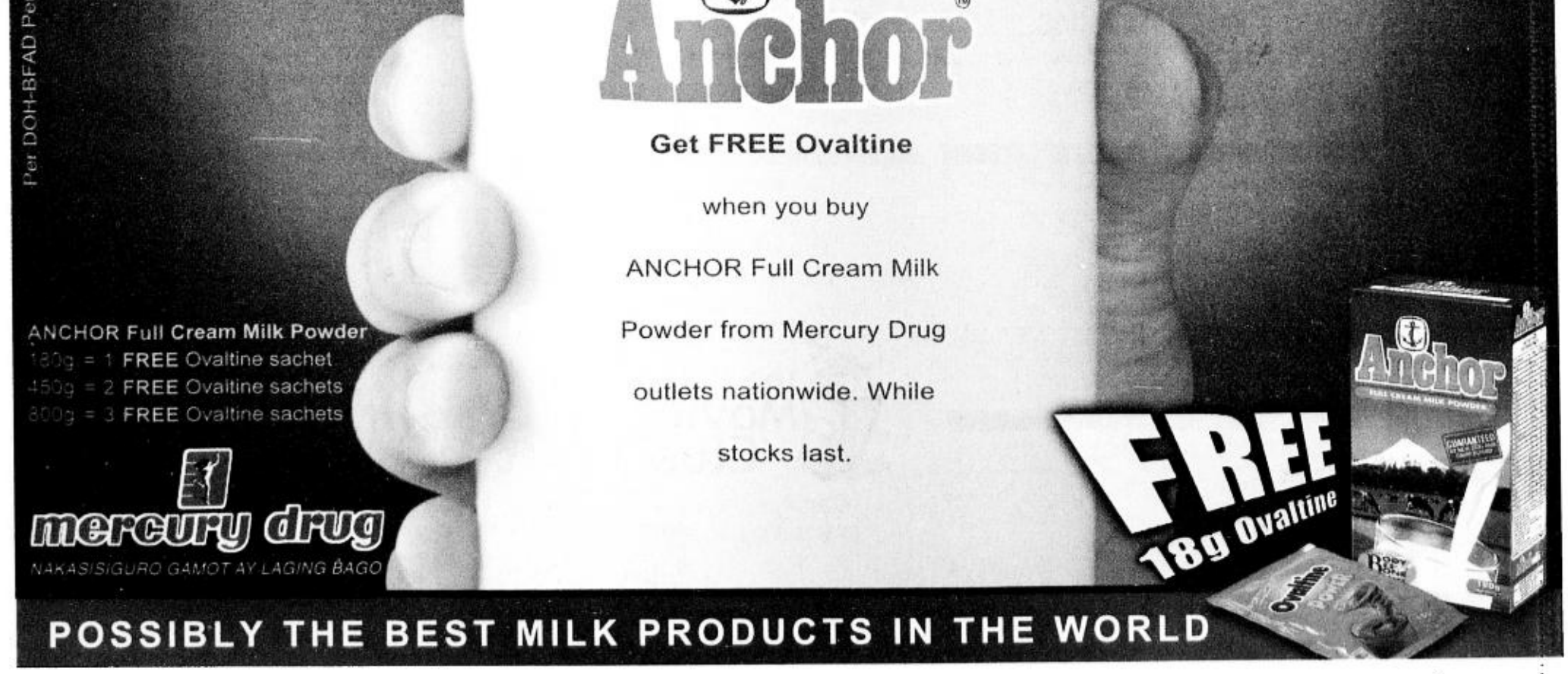
Then he stops to make a clarification: "Remember, when I answer these questions, I'm not saying that Pops was not, OK?" Martin says that he is often misinterpreted and would like to avoid any further confusion. Martin shares that in one year, Katrina will have to decide whether to renew her working visa or to come back to the Philippines and open her own school. Katrina's family and Martin have advised her to stay in America.

"I don't want to jeopardize her dreams just so she can be with me," explains Martin. However, he does admit that he knows Katrina wants more from the relationship than he is willing to offer at the moment. "I think Katrina wants me to just call her up and say pack up your things, forget work, live with me. I don't see that happening in the near future. I am so afraid of a) marriage, b) commitment. It's so hard. But then again, I'm not saying I'd rather go and fool around with every girl I see. I'm very focused on my work, very passionate about what I do."

Priorities

And his priorities in life are very clear to him: "(My) children, career, Katrina." Knowing that this is unfair to Katrina, Martin discloses that he has given her the option of getting out of the relationship if she cannot take it anymore. Can he take it if she leaves him?

"I have no choice because I have chosen the kind of life where there are sacrifices. I cannot give up one for the other. This is what I love to do. *Walang* choice," is Martin's firm reply.



Nicole Kidman and Kate Winslet, recording artists

THE PAST year has been a banner season for Nicole Kidman. Her movies showed how easily she could shift from one genre to another, with equally impressive critical and commercial results. Recently, she found another medium to conquer—the recording scene. This woman sure knows how to stretch her range! Success is, indeed, the best revenge.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I've always loved Nicole Kidman's versatility and career choices, but her recent collaboration with Robbie Williams on their duet blew me away. How successful has she been in this endeavor?"—*Jennifer Santosa, Hulo, Mandaluyong City.*

Despite her vocal limitations, Nicole's forays into the singing and recording scene have been pretty successful. Her "Moulin Rouge" numbers, particularly her enchanting cover of Randy Crawford's "One Day I'll Fly Away" and her soaring duet with Ewan McGregor, "Come What May," won her career points and new droves of fans.

In the United Kingdom, where Robbie Williams hails, the "Christmas Number One Single" is a hard-fought, annual countdown highly-anticipated by people in the entertainment industry.

Last December, that countdown marked Kidman's latest attempt at singing when her duet (featured in the album, "Swing When You're Winning") with Robbie, "Something Stupid," a cover of Frank and Nancy Sinatra's 1967 No. 1 hit, topped the chart. Eat your heart out, Gwyneth!

Despite her vocal limitations, Nicole's forays into the singing and recording scenes have been successful. Her 'Moulin Rouge' numbers won her career points and new droves of fans

The single's sexy video, which showed Kidman and Williams in daring states of undress, may have triggered talks of romance between the two (although both parties dismissed them), but the interest in the single's release was focused more on how Nicole's would fare alongside another top actress' recording debut. The actress? Kate Winslet!

Winslet recorded the voice of Scrooge's exfiancee, Belle, and sang on the animated film, "A Christmas Carol: The Movie," which impressed record company bosses, who asked Kate if they could release her song, "What If." She agreed, provided the proceeds of that record would go to two children's charities of her choice.

Nicole's "Something Stupid" may have gotten the top spot, but Kate's didn't do badly, either. "What If" was at No. 11 for two consecutive weeks.

Now, who's next? Julia Roberts? Cameron Cameron? Sandra Bullock?

"I have been a fan of Jay Hernandez since he appeared opposite Kirsten Dunst in 'crazy/beautiful.' Kirsten may be pretty but, for me, she was the movie's 'crazy' and Jay was its 'beautiful.' In what movie will I see him next?"—*Katrina Yap, Carcar, Cebu.*

Cheer up! Jay's latest movie, the Dennis Quaid-starrer, "The Rookie," debuted at No. 1 at the US box-office a few weeks ago. Then, check out "Living the Life," a movie Jay did two years ago, on video. Also this year, watch out for "Road Kill," which he shot in Australia.

The 22-year-old Montebello, California native is the third of four children. He was born on Feb. 20, 1978. For his role as the smart Latino, Carlos Nuñez, in "crazy/beautiful," Jay was the very first actor to audition. The movie's producers saw actors from all over the world, but they eventually went back to him. They knew star material when they saw it.

Prior to his appearances in film, Jay had appeared in Studio 23's former teen sitcoms, "Hang Time" (his first professional work) and "U.S.A. High."

"I recently got a copy of Shakira's 'Laundry Service' album. She sounds like Alanis Morrisette! It is now one of my favorites. Is she Spanish or Mexican?"—*Michael de Guzman, Malolos, Bulacan.*

Neither, Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll is Lebanese-Colombian, a 25-year-old Latin superstar who, before she found international crossover success with "Whenever, Wherever" (from her first English-language album), was usually referred to as the Latina Alanis because of the similarity of their singing styles.

Shakira found fame early on in her career. At 13, she left her village in Colombia to pur-

NICOLE/ p.E5

KIDMAN (right) and Williams. Success is the best revenge.

ARIEL TULONG SA PAGSULONG Livelihood Program

A LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM of ARIEL with Senator LOREN LEGARDA

Tutulungan ka ng Ariel na magkaroon ng sariling hanapbuhay. Ikuwento mo ang iyong pangarap, maglakip ng 6 na Ariel sachets at maging isa sa mga kababaihang pagkakalooban ng Ariel at ni Sen. Loren Legarda ng sariling tindahan. Dahil hangad ng Ariel ang pag-asenso ng Pilipina.

Mechanics:

1. Ariel will be giving women the opportunity to have their own sari-sari stores. Ariel's support will include the physical structure of the store, signage and initial inventory of products worth ₱20,000.
2. With every purchase of Ariel, there is a corresponding contribution to a livelihood fund that gives sari-sari stores to women. A minimum of 80 stores will be given away. The more contribution to the fund, the more stores will be put up.
3. To participate in the promo, simply fill out the application form below. You must fill-out all information completely, including where you intend to put up the store and answer the essay question. You have the option to write the essay on a separate paper if more space is required. Attach 6 empty Ariel sachets or 1 empty Ariel bag, place in an envelope and drop in dropboxes in major supermarkets and public markets nationwide or mail to: 515 Katarungan St., Mandaluyong City.
4. Applications will be accepted from January 15, 2002 to May 15, 2002.
5. Every month, Ariel will be screening applicants based on the following criteria:
   - Female, ages 21-40
   - At least high school graduate
   - Should have space to put sari-sari store

   Names of applicants who pass the initial screening will be raffled off. 60 finalists will be picked and will be interviewed by an Ariel panel. Finalists will be notified of interview schedule and other requirements via telegram. Applicants who pass the interview will be raffled off to select 20 winners. Winners will be notified via telegram.
6. A minimum of twenty (20) winners will be awarded each month from February 2002 to May 2002 and will be notified via telegraph. Final awarding of stores is subject to ocular inspection to confirm feasibility of putting up the store.
7. Raffle draws will be held in the Procter & Gamble office, 18th flr. 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati, in the presence of a DTI representative on the following dates:
   February 22, 2002
   March 22, 2002
   April 26, 2002
   May 24, 2002
8. Prior to construction of the sari-sari store, winner should present notification telegram, identification and sign a Memorandum of Agreement for the ownership, maintenance and upkeep of the store for at least 12 months.
9. Employees of Procter & Gamble, Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, and Promo Dimensions, Inc. up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining this program.

A. INFORMATION

COMPLETE NAME (PANGALAN)

ADDRESS (TIRAHAN) PHOTO

CIVIL STATUS ☐ SINGLE ☐ MARRIED ☐ SEPARATED ☐ WIDOWED | DATE OF BIRTH

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND ☐ Grade School ☐ High School ☐ College ☐ Vocational

OCCUPATION (TRABAHO) | HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION (TRABAHO NG ASAWA)

COMBINED MONTHLY INCOME (PINAGSAMANG KITA KADA BUWAN) ☐ BELOW 4,000 ☐ 4,001 - 8,000 ☐ 8,001 - 12,000 ☐ ABOVE 12,000

WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO PUT UP THE SARI-SARI STORE? (SAAN NINYO BALAK IPATAYO ANG SARI-SARI STORE?)

B. QUESTION

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM IN LIFE? HOW CAN ARIEL HELP ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM?
(ANO ANG PANGARAP NINYO? PAANO MAKAKATULONG ANG ARIEL PARA MAABOT NINYO ANG INYONG MGA PANGARAP?)

* Ang application form ay pwede i-xerox at ihulog sa dropbox.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0001, Series of 2002

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COMICRelief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM — BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

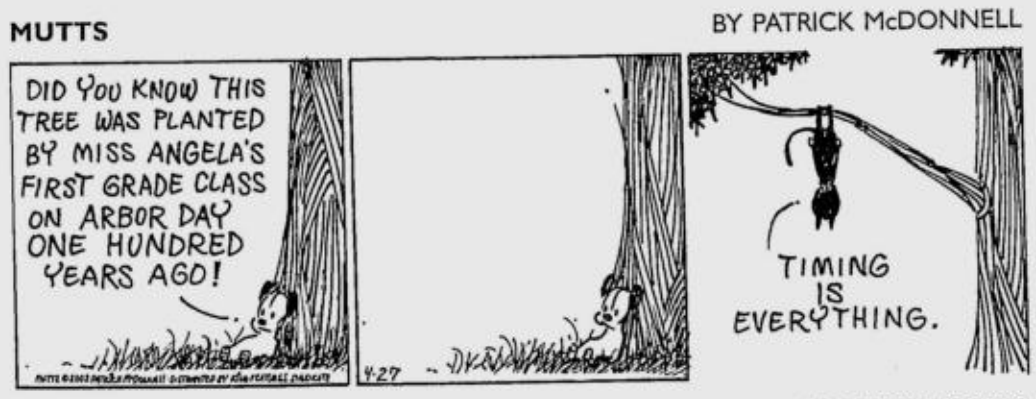
SIMO — BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS — BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL



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LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Klugman, Coretta Scott King, Sheena Easton, Casey Kasem

Happy Birthday: You will have the discipline to work hard this year and regenerate yourself through your accomplishments. Your ambitious nature and creativity will lead to advancement. You will be serious regarding your professional responsibilities. Public recognition will be your goal. Your numbers are 6, 17, 29, 36, 43, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sudden changes, limitations or frustrations will develop when dealing with joint financial ventures. Go it alone. Investments will eventually pay off but not in the short term.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be concerned with partnerships today. Travel and adventure should be on your agenda in order to take your mind off business. Sign up for courses

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may not see your current position realistically. Re-evaluate your motives before you proceed with your plans. Changes must be for the right reasons.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should be starting a hobby or getting together with the people closest to you. Include children in whatever plans They will lift your spirits and give you a new perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Trouble may be brewing at home. Be careful not to offend someone you love. Being tactful today will be half the battle. It may be best to keep your thoughts to yourself today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more places you go today, the more people you will meet along the way. You will be in a friendly mood and you should be able to accomplish a lot. Don't be afraid to ask for favors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to put in a few extra hours at work. Your dedication will be appreciated and rewarded. It's better to clear up loose ends so you can start new projects.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are ready for a change and now is the right time to instigate a new way of living. You can better yourself by improving your diet, fitness regime and life in general.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunities to get involved in a worthwhile financial deal are apparent. You must however be careful not to get involved with someone who is not trustworthy. Check out the deal completely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can enhance your reputation by making a worthwhile contribution to a prestigious group that shares your ideals. Stand up for your beliefs. Someone from your past may come back into your life.

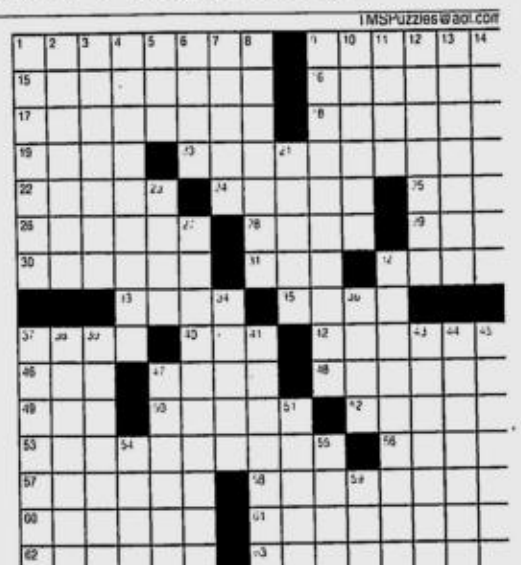
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to tread softly around family members today. If you want to make changes at home re-evaluate your motives and make sure that your plans will benefit everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be traveling. Get involved in groups that can bring you more information on taking a spiritual journey.

Birthday Baby: You will need freedom to come and go as you please. You will change your residence quite often throughout your life. You will need change in order to stimulate your creative self-expression.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

4/27/02

ACROSS
1 Relating to the environment
9 Wet smacking sounds
15 Most westerly Prairie Province
16 Dress
17 Babbler
18 Ransacks
19 Fury
20 Fruitless beginning
22 Wide-mouth pitchers
24 Double agents
25 Born in Bordeaux
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49 Work unit
50 Small silvery fish
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58 Capable of being exchanged
60 One full of oneself
61 Estate handler.
62 Sensitive skin layer
63 Authenticity

DOWN
1 Leading lady?
2 Flavoring seed
3 Wild asses
4 Readers
5 Hall of Famer Mel
6 Tiger's game
7 Girder
8 Fordful?
9 Starlet's golden opportunity
10 Puckered finish given to fabric
11 Choir's level
12 Home of the Braves
13 Immediately after that
14 Six-line poetic stanzas
21 Beach Boys hit, "__ John B"
23 Construction detail, briefly
27 Remunerations
32 Revitalized
34 Thurmond and Archibald of the NBA
36 Octagonal road sign
37 Punctured
38 Land area
39 One who bequeaths
41 Support
43 Dishonorable
44 Hugs with tenderness
45 Attention-getting vignettes
47 St. Francis' birthplace
51 Alloy of lead and tin
54 Read in a cursory manner
55 Input
59 Delhi condiment

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	I	V	E		D	A	F	T		W	O	R	D	S
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4/27/02

HERNANDEZ. His latest movie "The Rookie" topped the US box-office recently.

Nicole Kidman and Kate Winslet, recording artists

From page E3

sue a modeling career in Bogota, but she ended up with a recording contract from Sony. At 14, she recorded her first album, "Maggia," to lukewarm response. She also ventured into acting via the Colombian soap opera, "El Oaris."

This was followed by her next album, "Peligro," and "Pies Descalzos," her breakthrough album that contained two No. 1 singles ("Estoy Aqui," "Donde Estas Corazon") and topped the music charts in eight countries. Her single "Ojos Asi" won for her the Best Female Pop Vocal Performance at the First Latin Grammies. Her "Laundry Service" album contains an English version of the award-winning "Ojos Asi," as well as a power ballad, "The One," that will surely captivate her fans' hearts.

Quote of the week

"One of the things about Episode One I was slightly disappointed by was, I thought it was kind of flat. I think there's much more humor and color in Episode Two, more reminiscent of the original three 'Star Wars' films than Episode One was."—***Ewan McGregor, SW's Obi-Wan Kenobi***

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'Closer to Home 2' tugs at listeners' heartstrings

SISON. Dramatic song.

By Leia Torre

"CLOSER to Home 2" is a compilation of songs by some of our country's leading recording artists. It continues what has been started by Crossover's earlier compilation, "Closer to Home," which is to pay homage to the talent of the Filipino artist.

Commitment

The Mareco Broadcasting Network Inc., along with Viva Records Corp., has created this album in order to reinforce their commitment to showcase the Filipino artist, and goes even further. Part of the proceeds from the sales of the album will benefit streetchildren in Pasig through the various projects of the Zonta Club of Metro Pasig, an organization of professional women whose aim is the improvement of the lot of impoverished women and children.

The compilation is composed of songs interpreted by 14 different artists. If there is a theme on which the selections in this album is based, it is love. Although most of the songs are about romance and all its trappings, there are two or three songs which deal with other kinds of love.

Loved ones

Zsa Zsa Padilla's song, "Shower the People," for example, deals with the feelings any person has towards his or her loved ones. There is no singling out of romantic love in this song, unlike some of the other songs in the album.

Donna Cruz' number, "Someone's Waiting For You," is a remake. This is the ultimate song of encouragement, the melody and the lyrics gradually rising up to an inspiring peak.

A lot of the songs are remakes or revivals—"Doors" by Sharon Cuneta, "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" by Regine Velasquez, "As If We Never Said Goodbye" by Marco Sison, "Don't Give Up On Us Baby" by Kuh Ledesma, "Light and Shade" by Wiseguys, and "Fallin'" by Pops Fernandez. The other songs are "I Can Let Go Now" by Jaya, "Love is Here" by Freestyle, "Neither One of Us" by Lani Misalucha, "Into Your Groove" by Seven, "Forget to Forget" by Janno Gibbs, and "For Everything" by Rachel Alejandro.

Repeat performances

Some of the artists featured in this album have already appeared in Crossover's earlier album, "Closer to Home," which was released in 1999, like Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya, Janno Gibbs, Regine Velasquez, and Freestyle. Their repeat performances indicate the station believes that their singing styles are excellent realizations of the 105.1 ideal, a smooth blend of today's cool jazz and rhythm & blues.

Although the tracks here have mostly a jazzy beat to them, they manage to sound different from each other. Since most of these songs have already been heard before, the album relies on the performers' unique interpretation to sustain interest and empathy. Pops Fernandez' "Fallin'" is one of the highlights of the album, due to the popularity of the song, and Pops' simple rendition, which manages to evoke that head-over-heels feeling without her having to sing her lungs out.

Another highlight is Marco Sison's "As If We Never Said Goodbye," a very dramatic song whose lyrics and Sison's interpretation effectively tug at our emotional heartstrings.

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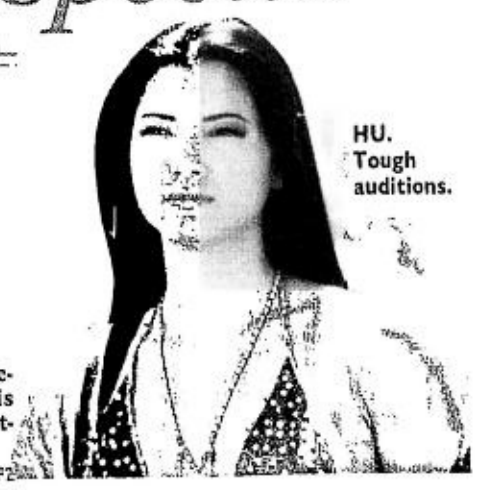

HU. Tough auditions.

By Nestor U. Torre

KELLY who? That's Hu, The Rock's leading lady in the big action-adventure film, "The Scorpion King." The movie is Kelly's biggest film outing to date, so the new star is getting a lot of curious attention from the show biz media.

MAKE/ p.F2

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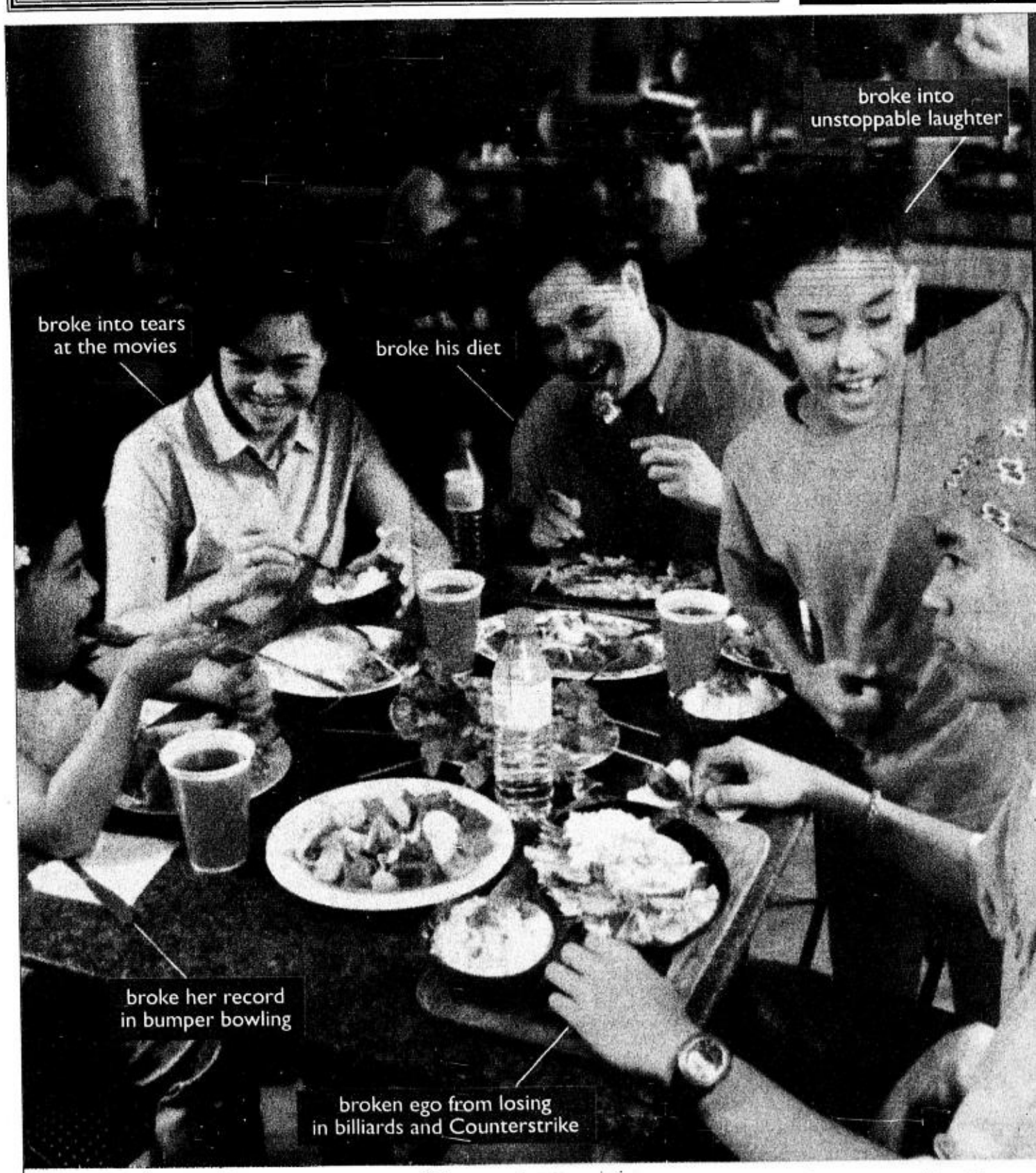

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OK KA LANG BA DYAN?

Robin Padilla shakes, rattles and rolls in 'Videoke King'

By Edmund L. Sicam

Although he has been doing light romantic comedies lately, they still require him to go through strenuous physical activity

BREAKING away once more from his usual tough-guy image, Robin Padilla tackles a musical comedy, "Videoke King," starring opposite singer Pops Fernandez. In the movie, Robin plays King, a videoke fanatic who falls in love with an interior designer, played by Pops.

When the idea of doing the movie was first presented to him, Robin had some serious doubts about the project. *"Alam kong hindi ko kaya, kasi sayawan-kantahan e!"* declared the action star. *"Pero noong binasa ko iyung* script, *sabi ko, 'Kaya ko 'to. Kakayanin ko 'to!"* Upon the recommendation of his director, Jerry Lopez Sineneng, Robin took voice and dance lessons.

Expert

Robin says he took lessons under an expert, but did not reveal the name. He had to get used to a new morning routine to get his voice ready for the movie. *"Tuwing umaga po, pagkagising, kailangan sumigaw, para daw mabuksan iyung* vocal chords ko," shares the actor. *"Kailangan iyung malakas na malakas ang sigaw.* WAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!" he demonstrates.

For his dance moves, he enlisted the help of a friend whom he met at the Elorde Gym where he trains.

But it seems the lessons still didn't prepare him enough for the real thing. *"Ang hirap din ng pinapagawa sa akin!"* Robin shares that although he has been doing light romantic comedies lately, they still require him to go through strenuous physical activity.

"Doon sa 'Pagdating ng Panahon,' pag-akyat doon sa puno, delikado iyon, ang taas-taas. Dito naman sa 'Videoke King', *napakapisikal din ng mga pagsayaw. Iyung mga yugyugan no'n talaga, mabigat!"*

But Robin says that he had a lot of fun making this movie. One big factor was that he and Pops have been special friends for a long time. Once, Pops offered to help him get an Australian visa and actually woke up at 9 a.m. to go to the embassy.

No rasied voices

"Noong nagtrabaho kami, naging masyado na pong magaan. Para kaming naglalaro," Robin shares. The one thing that Robin appreciated most about direk Jerry Lopez Sineneng was that he never raised his voice during the filming. Robin says that if there is one thing he cannot stand, it is hearing raised voices during the shooting of a film.

Aside from being known as an action star, Robin has fast been making a name for himself as a comedian. Whether he stars in action films or light romances, his comedic flair always comes out. He says that he uses the bystanders, who watch the shooting from the sidelines, as a gauge as to whether his *patawa* works or not. *"Iyon ang unang-unang* judge *mo e, iyung mga nanonood. Pag natawa na sila, solb na ako no'n,"* says Robin.

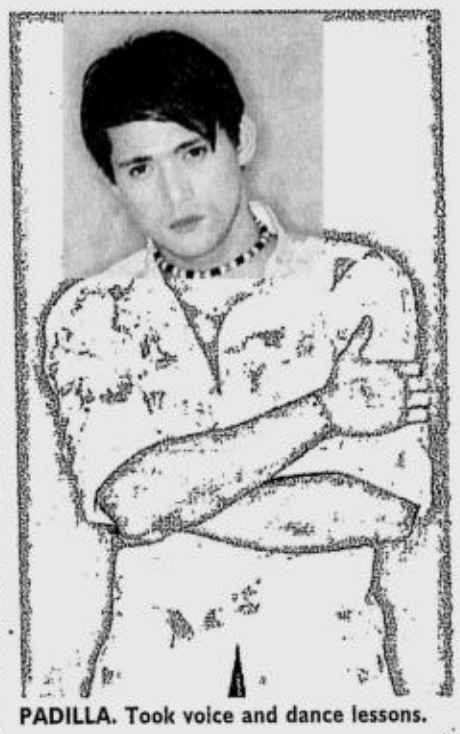
He used the same technique to gauge whether his singing was acceptable or not. *"Pagdating sa* shooting, *minsan may* crowd control *kami, pinapaalis iyung mga* nanonood. Sinasabi ko, huwag. Kasi sila iyung magsasabi kung mukha na akong gago o OK *lang. E maganda naman ang* reaction *ng mga nanonood, kasi pumapalakpak naman e."*

Challenging job

The action star says that although action films and comedies are both hard to do, making a comedy is a more challenging job. Robin explains, *"Ang* comedy *kasi, kung walang tumatawa doon sa nanonood, parang gusto mong magbigti."*

Aside from the "stunts" he had to execute on the dance floor, Robin says that, ironically, the only real difficulty he had in shooting the movie was the fight scene. *"Di ako sanay sa* fight scene *na kunyari hindi ako marunong manuntok! Doon ako nahirapan lang, kasi lumalabas pa rin e!* The action star in him found it hard to repress what comes naturally to him.

Speaking of natural talent, people who have seen the movie are saying that they wouldn't be surprised if Robin were to sign a recording contract with Star Records after its release. Pops Fernandez herself describes Robin as "a good singer". Robin however, is uncomfortable with the idea of being a solo recording artist.



PADILLA. Took voice and dance lessons.

Recording artist

If ever he would be given a chance to record an album, he would like to do it as part of a band. *"Noong kami po ay mga bata pa, kami ng mga kapatid ko, kami ay merong* combo *talaga. May banda kami, pero hindi ako nagsi-*singer. *Ako iyung nagda-*drums *lang. Kaya siguro, kung ako man ay magiging ganoon, gusto ko iyung banda. Iyung kami pa ring magkakapatid."*

Make way for Kelly Hu (From page F1)

KELLY. First Asian-American to win the Miss Teen USA beauty tilt.

Kelly comes on strong in the sexy looks department, thanks a lot to her training as a model, and to her having won the Miss Teen USA beauty tilt some years back, the first Asian-American to win that prized title.

How did she clinch her lead role in "The Scorpion King?" Her beauty title helped, but she still had to audition for the plum part, along with hundreds of other hopeful starlets.

Her first audition was with the movie's casting director, and it went well—but that was only the start of her ordeal. She next had to meet with the director for a "look-see," then with The Rock, then with the director again for two more times, then she had to take a screen test before she had landed the role!

No wonder she flipped and started screaming and jumping, and even hugged the cable guy, who happened to be at her house to check on her TV set's signal.

Physically draining

If auditioning for the movie was tough, shooting the film was even more physically draining. "The Scorpion King" was shot in the desert around Los Angeles and in Arizona, and there were record-breaking temperatures. When she walked on the sand, it burned her feet. She also had to be wary of the many snakes on the set!

An interesting tidbit is that both Kelly and The Rock come from Hawaii, the first time that the two top stars of a big film hail from the island state.

Kelly was relieved when she got her break in "The Scorpion King" because, for almost a year before that, she was jobless in Los Angeles. These days, however, she has more work than she can handle.

Action-oriented

She's currently shooting "Cradle to the Grave" with the popular martial arts star, Jet Li. The film is still action-oriented, but she hopes to soon get away from that film type and do a comedy, or even a drama.

Meanwhile, she enjoys that variety in roles on television, appearing in such disparate shows as "Sunset Beach," "Nash Bridges" and "Martial Law."

In "The Scorpion King," Kelly plays a sorceress named Cassandra, who is held captive by an evil warlord. The Scorpion King kidnaps her, and they fall in love.

Abashed

Kelly is a bit abashed about the costumes she wears in the movie: "A lot of gold body paint and really long, green nails—and not much else!"

But she takes her near-nakedness in stride, hoping that this exhibitionistic phase in her career will soon be over, and she can act with her clothes on, for a change.

She's not so sure if she'll make a terrific dramatic actress, but when it comes to action films, she can more than hold her own. After all, she has a black belt in judo!

She's happy that, in post-"Charlie's Angels" Hollywood these days, female characters in action films do much more than cry out for help.

Incipient trend

She's aware that roles for minority actors continue to be scarce in Hollywood, but she's even happier about an incipient trend in the US films, "race-blind" casting, which has made it possible for some oriental actors to play non-Asian roles.

Thus, she's happiest of all to have arrived in Hollywood at the best time to take advantage of all these positive developments.

Take shelter in the holy names of God

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ONE type of misery we experience in this world is that caused by other living entities such as parasites, animals and other human beings. More often, we become hassled and stressed out by other humans around us.

Misery

To become free of such misery, some people have resorted to the strategy of trying to change or perfect those people who cause them stress. They want to change the behavior of others so that they are no longer challenged, opposed or harassed.

Of course, this is another stressful and frustrating endeavor because it is impossible to perfect people who deal with you. It is impossible to fully control other people's minds, desires, words or actions. They have their own will and own way of doing things.

Murder

Because it is impossible to change others, some people have instead chosen the path of trying to get rid of the source of their misery through intimidation, assault or even murder. Why do we have laws against murder? The reason is there are so many people who cause misery on others and the people they harass contemplate the idea of trying to kill them. If there were no laws, life would be like a jungle where killing would be common or rampant.

Tenant

Even if there are already strict laws, many resort to murder to get rid of others. For example, in California, a man murdered a tenant living in his condominium simply because the tenant played his stereo at top volume. Of course, the murderer's misery would not end with his crime.

Due to his actions, he would have to deal with the other people who would be opposing him—the police, lawyers, judge, jury, other inmates in jail, etc. He thought he got rid of one misery but another whole bunch of "misery causers" came along. It doesn't really work to get rid of misery this way.

To solve the misery caused by others—whether it is a domineering husband, nagging wife or rebellious children—is not to slash and burn. Instead of trying to get rid of others or changing them, the burden of responsibility is on us. We should try to change our way of responding or reacting to them.

We should try to change our consciousness so that we are not so affected by that which makes us miserable. If there is pollution in our environment, we should know how to get clean from that grime, so that it doesn't affect or disturb us.

Rush hour

For example, someone may shout at you while you are driving during morning rush hour. All the way up to the evening, you are still thinking of it. That person still has a hold on you; he's still affecting you. You have to learn how to bathe off the crap or vomit that people dump on you.

If you don't clean it off, it may harden in your heart and mind, become a permanent fixture and build up day after day. Then, 20 miserable years later, one little guy yells at you again on the road and you grab your gun and blast his head off.

To you, the little guy represents all the misery of the past that has affected you up to the present. Of course, the little guy wouldn't understand why you became so upset at him.

If you want to be purified from all these miseries caused by others, don't meditate on sufferings or temptations. Simply take shelter in the holy names of the Supreme Person. Meditate on the Holy Names of God, which will purify your consciousness. The Holy Names will give you the strength and peacefulness that will sustain your sanity.

'Shaolin Soccer' scores at Hong Kong film awards

By Carrie Lee and Tan Ee Lyn

HONG KONG—"Shaolin Soccer," a comedy that will soon hit US cinemas, scored a resounding victory on Sunday at the Hong Kong Film Awards, one of the most prestigious accolades in the Chinese movie circuit.

Unusual mix

With its unusual mix of martial arts and soccer, the film grabbed seven of 19 awards, just below the eight that Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" took last year.

The film stars and was directed by Stephen Chiau, dubbed Hong Kong's answer to Hollywood's rubber-faced Jim Carrey, and won awards for best film, director, young director, actor, supporting actor, sound design and visual effects.

It had received 13 nominations.

"I wish to thank some people. First of all, the late (kung fu star) Mr Bruce Lee because I was so enchanted by his films that I resolved to be an actor," the deadpan comedian said.

While "Shaolin Soccer" may not have the international renown that "Crouching Tiger" enjoyed after it took four Oscars last year, it commands a huge following in Asia.

The film earned more than HK$60 million ($7.7 million) at the local box office last summer, making it Hong Kong's highest-grossing film on record.

US distribution rights

Miramax, a unit of Walt Disney Co., bought the US distribution rights for the film even before it was released in Hong Kong. Its US release is expected soon—marking Chiau's US debut.

The night was a personal victory for Chiau, whose brand of screen humor has sometimes been seen by critics as parochial.

"Being of a mature age and getting this prize for best young director is especially delightful," he said with a wry smile.

Chiau is just two months short of 40, the cut-off age to be considered for the young director award. His 51 movies have grossed more than HK$1.78 billion since 1989.

If there was a prize for the biggest upset of the night, it would have certainly gone to "Lan Yu," a drama tackling the twin taboos of homosexuality and the bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

It earned a whopping 11 nominations, including best actor and best film, but ended the night with nothing.

The other surprise was the best actress award, which went to veteran Taiwanese actress and director Sylvia Chang for her role as the mother of an AIDS victim in "Forever and Ever."

Disbelief

Chang cupped her mouth in disbelief when her name was called. Hong Kong pop diva Sammi Cheng had been widely tipped to win after figuring in three of five nominations in the category.

"July Rhapsody," directed by Hong Kong's veteran Ann Hui, took three awards: best new performer, screenplay and supporting actress.

The film dealt with an affair between a middle-aged teacher and his teenage student—a taboo in Chinese society.

Period drama "Peony Pavilion" took two prizes: best costume/make up design and art direction.

The drama centered on the romantic bond between two women but is perhaps better known for its splendid dresses which were later auctioned off through Sotheby's to raise HK$400,000 ($51,000).

Reuters

Safety training for media personnel

ROGUE factions in some parts of the world now appear to regard journalists as legitimate targets. In light of this, CNN—the largest broadcast newsgatherer—has invested nearly $1 million to step up the necessary training for its staff.

Chris Cramer, president of CNN International Networks, shares his thoughts on the importance of such training. Cramer is also the chairman of Newscoverage Unlimited, a charity set up to help members of the media recognize and be treated for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):

These are nightmarish times for those working in the media; we are killed at an unacceptable and unprecedented rate doing a legitimate job. More likely, some say, to be killed in the line of duty than members of the armed forces are.

It is clearly time, I would argue, for responsible news organizations around the world, to provide mandatory safety training for staff likely to be deployed to war zones or other hostile environments.

And if ever we needed a grim reminder of this fact, then the hideous murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl has brought this to our attention again.

Why was he kidnapped, tortured and subsequently murdered? Apparently in an attempt to change the views and behavior of the American government. Clearly gross and unacceptable. Assaults not just on our profession but on Free Speech as well.

Reality

But it's a reality we in the media have to learn to live with.

With multiple wars now raging more journalists will die and be injured, many with little or no experience of hostile environments let alone training. And we *can* do something about it.

Let's remind ourselves of the horrible facts. More than 100 journalists died around the world last year, eight in Afghanistan alone; this year has already started badly. Pearl's murder and the fatal shooting of the Italian photojournalists in West Bank plus the injuries to others is just the tip of a bloody iceberg.

News organizations like CNN, the BBC and Reuters have a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure that their staff are trained and protected. More importantly organizations such as these will both be able to provide a true and impartial news service if they don't cower in the face of lethal aggression.

I am proud that Britain was one of the first countries in which journalists had access to hostile environment safety training. In the United States, CNN has led the charge with dozens of staff signing up for hostile environment training in Britain, Asia and in the United States. But up until last week, while actively encouraged for everyone, it has never been mandatory.

Experienced newsgatherers with years of battle experience on the front line or living in some of the world's most dangerous hot spots were exempt. But not any longer.

Commitment

News organizations will have to dig deep in their pockets—CNN has more than 100 staff already trained, but it will have to double that number, at least, in the coming months to fulfill its commitment.

With courses lasting a week and each person costing $4,000 to fully train and equip, CNN's investment in mandatory training for staff will be nearly $1 million. It is tragic and depressing that some other news organizations are unwilling to take the financial risk to protect their staff.

A TALIBAN official gestures to journalists in Islamabad, Pakistan. Covering trouble spots resulted in the deaths of 100 newsmen around the world last year.

And it's important to note that CNN makes no distinction between a staff member and a freelance contractor, If they work for us or in our

SAFETY/ p.F3

Update on Joanna Bacalso

By Nestor U. Torre

FIL-CANADIAN actress Joanna Bacalso is co-starring with Cuba Gooding Jr. in the hit movie, "Snow Dogs." Following up on our recent article on her and "The Count of Monte Cristo's" Dagmara Dominczyk, here's more on the spirited young actress who has finally broken into Hollywood's stellar ranks:

Invitation

Joanna was born in Cebu City. Her father was an engineer, her mother was a doctor, and they were doing OK here, but they decided to accept her maternal aunt's invitation for them to join her in Toronto, Canada. Joanna was only eight years old when her family made the big move.

In Toronto, Joanna had a fun time growing up. Because she has two younger brothers, she became a tomboy. She went in for rugby and kickboxing. She didn't care how she looked because she was having too good a time being one of the boys.

But, as she settled into her teenage years, her beauty, vivacity and height (she's 5'8") asserted themselves, and people kept telling her that she should take up modeling as a career.

Crazy idea

She thought that was a crazy idea, since she didn't care for feminine clothes and didn't even put on make-up. But so many people kept telling her the same thing that she finally decided that she'd better listen. Those dozens upon dozens of people couldn't all be wrong!

Well, she soon found herself becoming popular as a model in Toronto. From there, she moved to commercials, then television. But she still wanted to take up medicine so she could be a doctor, like her mom.

BACALSO. Co-starring with Cuba Gooding Jr.

Son

As fate and romance would have it, however, she fell in love, got married, had a son, and her burgeoning career took the back seat in her life for the moment.

The marriage didn't prosper, however, so Joanna went back to acting on TV. Then came the time when she had to decide to live in Los Angeles, USA, where show biz opportunities really beckoned.

It was a tough decision to make, because she loved living in Canada and hated being separated from her family and friends—but she made it, for the sake of her and her son's future.

In Los Angeles, she acquired an agent and TV work started coming in. She also played some small roles in films like "Dude, Where's My Car?" and "Bedazzled." Nothing to get noticed for by Academy jurors, but it was a start.

Second time

Joanna also got married a second time, to a model who has also invented educational games. This time, however, she was able to handle both career and domestic life.

Then came the exciting news that Cuba Gooding Jr. wanted a relative unknown to play his love interest in his new comedy-adventure project, "Snow Dogs." Joanna's agent got her an audition, and she turned out to be exactly right for the female-lead role of Barb in the film.

Vitality

It was her spunk and vitality that clinched the role for her. Gooding is such a vital actor that a "sweet" actress would fade away from the screen in her scenes with him. In Joanna's case, however, she gave as well as she took when she was acting with Gooding, so the role—and big-screen stardom—was hers.

Joanna's first son is already 13 years old, and she's pregnant again by her second husband. But the success at the box office of "Snow Dogs" has definitely boosted her stellar career prospects in Hollywood, so it's fair bet that we'll be seeing more of Joanna Bacalso on the big screen in film seasons to come!

Safety

(From page F2)

name, they will be trained or they will not be there.

CNN, like the BBC and others, has suffered terribly over the years. Seven CNN colleagues were shot to death in Somalia—five of them in one day. Camerawoman Margaret Moth was shot in the face by a sniper in Sarajevo. Cameraman Dave Allbritton was nearly killed in a mortar attack on the Bosnian TV building. Cairo bureau chief and corespondent Ben Wedeman was shot in the Gaza Strip.

However, CNN's investment in hostile environment training does not end once our staff go on location. Well before Sept. 11th CNN and other media institutions provided voluntary and confidential counseling for PTSD. In the days following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, it became evident that our US-based corespondents were inadequately prepared to deal with the trauma of what they faced.

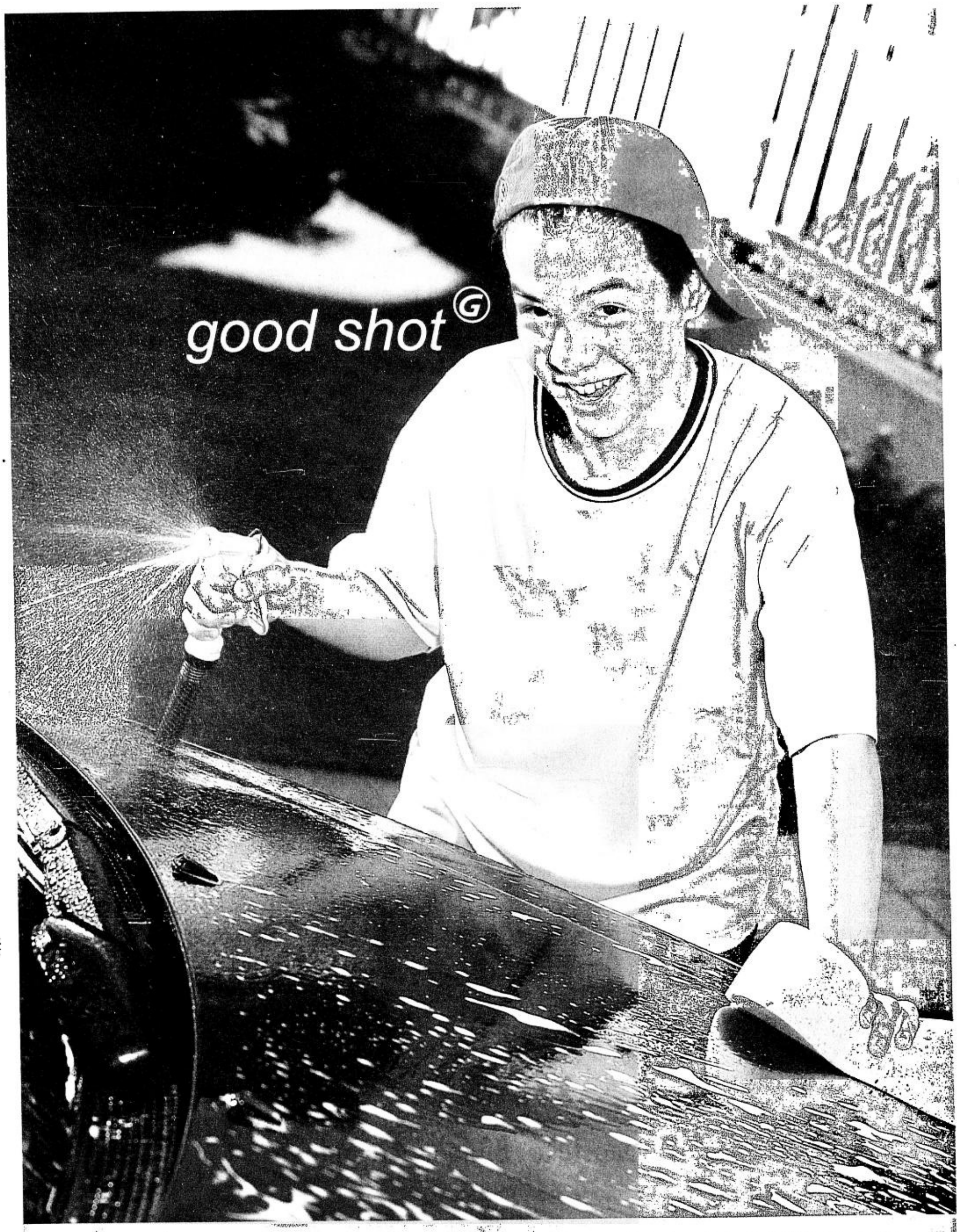
Results

Now six months on a research project we put in place with our staff is nearing completion and the results, I believe, will show little or no distinction between the effects of this tragedy on the "urban" war correspondents as they compare with their overseas colleagues.

Yet there is virtually no acknowledgement at all within most of the industry that PTSD even exists among our ranks. Even though counseling for the armed forces and police and fire personnel is routine and has been for years.

Curiously, it has taken the media industry far too long to realize that it is perfectly natural for journalists—like other folk—to feel the effects of trauma. There is nothing particular about the work that they do that keeps them immune from what they experience, and to deny it and think otherwise is unnatural at best and dangerous at worst.

In the past, death and injury in journalism was often put down to bad luck, a rogue event, unfortunate and for some just part and parcel of the job we do. Daniel Pearl's dreadful murder has become another wake-up call.



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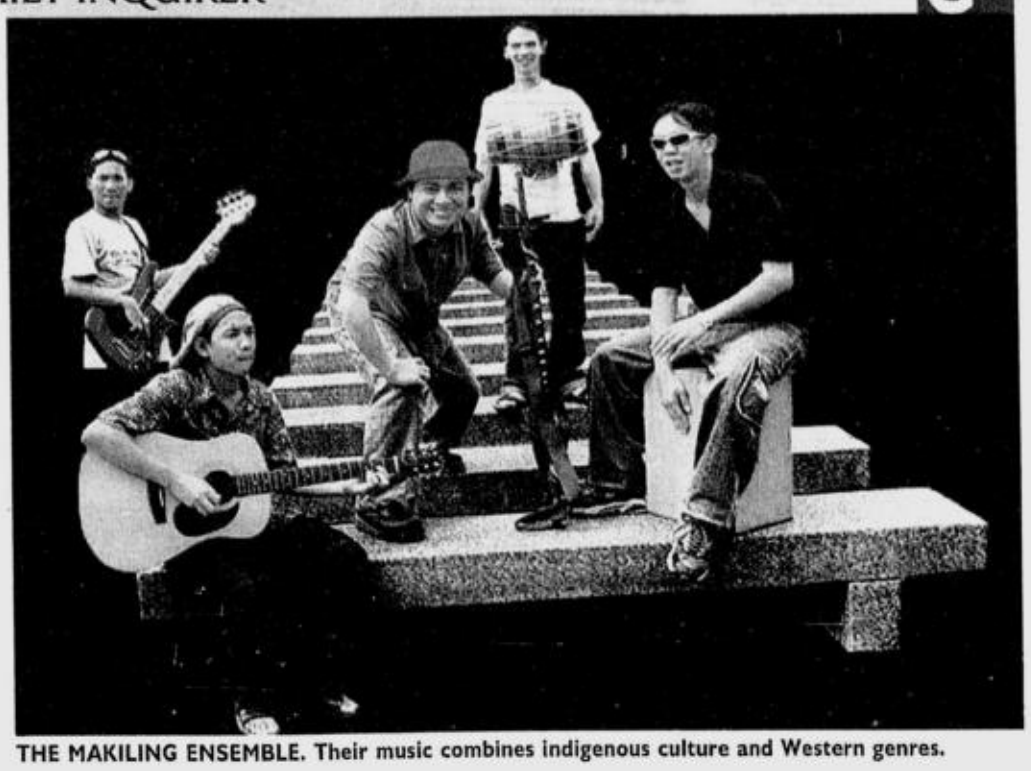


THE MAKILING ENSEMBLE. Their music combines indigenous culture and Western genres.

The Makiling Ensemble boosts Pinoy World Music

By Noelani Torre

THEY don't look any thing special in their casual attire of jeans and shirts. Just another college rock band trying to make it, one would think, while preparing oneself to hear a few minutes' blast of metal.

Instruments

But then, as the five band members of Makiling Ensemble start assembling their instruments on stage, doubt is cast on this assumption as one guy in a red hat twangs this perfectly strange-looking guitar that looks vaguely familiar and turns out to be a T'boli hegalong.

When the other band members drag out the rest of their stuff—electric guitars, bells, conggas, rain stick, violin, (and is that a gong?)—one's attention is completely and irrevocably caught. And when they start playing and, of course, it turns out not to be metal, one finds oneself clapping and yelling encouragement like any besotted fan.

It's infectious, the beat, the music, their total enjoyment of their performance. They call it Pinoy World Music.

"What makes us different is our music," says Evan Britanico (lead vocals, bass). "*Lahat naman ng banda may sari-sariling* music, *pero* distinct *ang amin kasi* combination *ng* indigenous culture *at* Western genres *gaya ng* pop-rock."

Ethnic music

"Our generation is preoccupied with pop-rock, metal, rap," adds band manager Diwa de Leon (vocals, hegalong, violin), "*at 'yung mga* artists *na tumutugtog ng* ethnic music like Pinikpikan and Grace Nono, seniors *na namin.*"

"*Kami 'yung pinaka-bata sa* field *na 'to,*" puts in Otto Hernandez (percussion). "*Nagiging* distinct *'yung tunog namin dahil bata kami at ang* school of thought *namin iba.*"

"*Lahat halos ng mga* bands *ng* generation *namin* rock-metal," says Diwa. "*Kami lang 'yung nagpo-*promote *ng ganitong klaseng* music."

"*Susubukan namin lahat,*" adds Otto. "*Ayaw naming ma-*confine *sa isang* niche. *Gusto namin mas masa. Kasi 'pag sinabi mong* rock, *alam na nila ang tunog. 'Pag sinabi mo namang* ethnic, *ano yun?* World music—*ano yun?*"

Educate but not alienate," agrees Diwa. "We want to be known as 'normal' people and for listeners to realize that this kind of music is normal music."

Okay, but why Makiling Ensemble? What does a mountain have to do with a band? Simple enough, really: all members of the band are batchmates and alumni of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), at Mt. Makiling.

According to their history in their website www.makilingensemble.com, "It was in their high school days that they got exposed to the diverse musical cultures of the Philippines and the world."

Thus, after graduation in '97 (Diwa graduated valedictorian), Diwa, Otto, Evan, David Sicam (guitar) and Wed Lodriga (percussion), all visual arts majors (except for Evan who majored in voice), went on to form the Makiling Ensemble.

"*Iba-iba ang gusto naming* music," explains a somewhat hoarse-voiced David. "*Si* Evan love songs, *si* Otto oldies, *si* Diwa classical ('Beatles *na ako ngayon,*' says Diwa), *ako't si* Wed alternative. *So inisip namin, ano ba ang gusto natin lahat?* Ethno music."

Musical genres

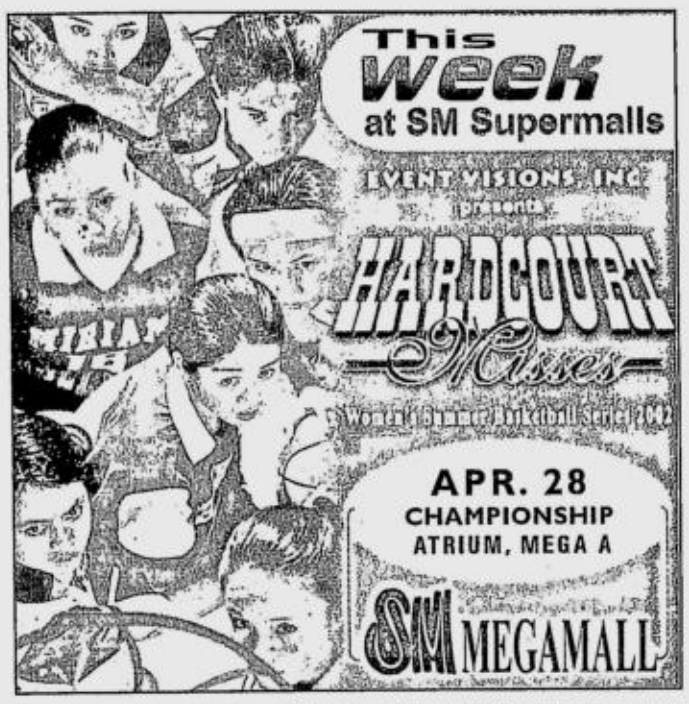
The band admits to having been influenced by a great many artists and musical genres, ranging from Philippine music and Joey Ayala to Keltic music, Bach and Bob Marley.

"*Marami kaming natututunan kahit sa mga luma,*" confirms Otto.

"We also get cultural exchange between bands," says Diwa. "We learn from everything and everybody."

Makiling Ensemble has already released one CD, "Medyo Modern" under the independent label N/A Records ("Major labels will always make *pakialam* with your sound," says the band manager). Containing 10 original cuts, it

THE MAKILING/ p.G2



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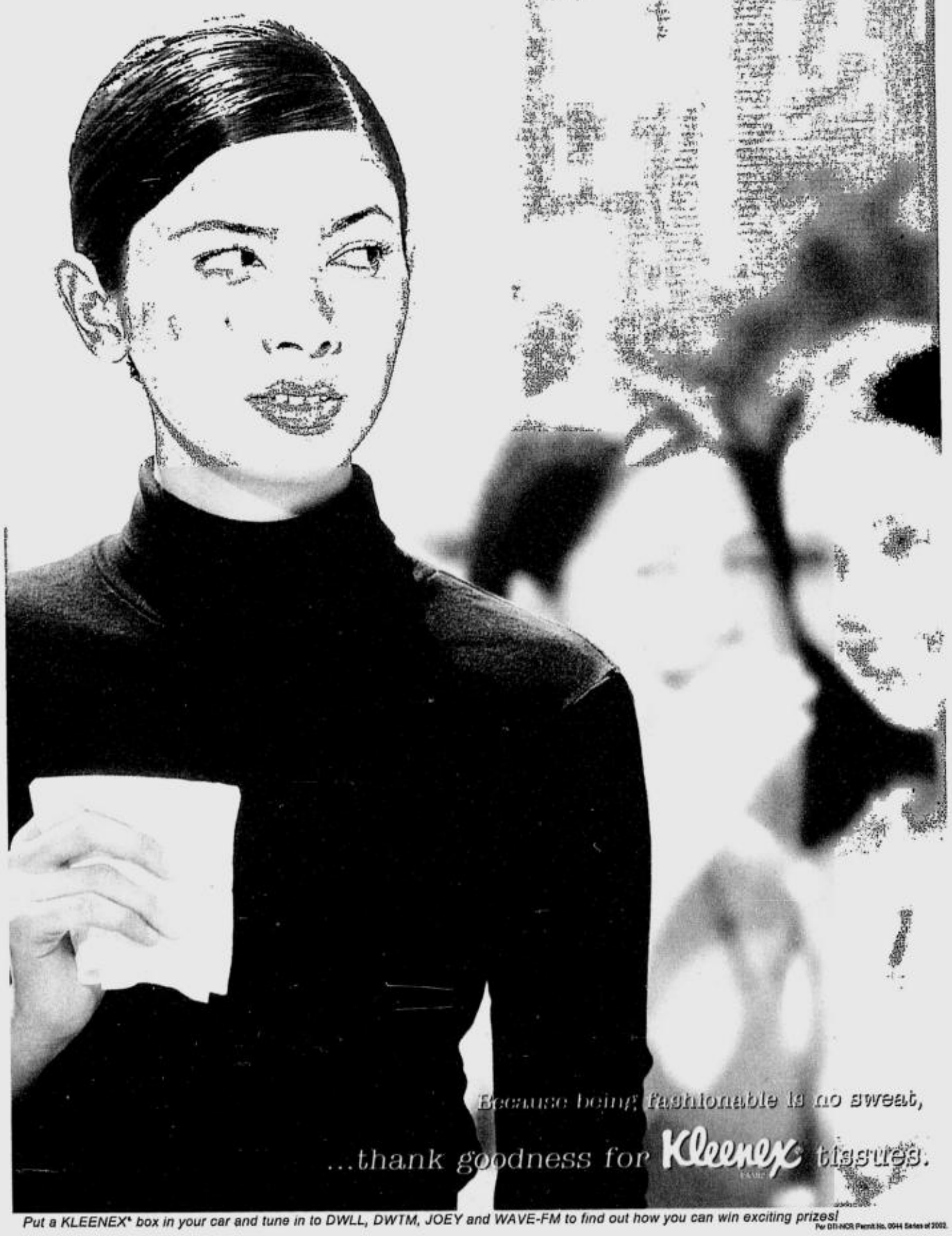

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The Makiling Ensemble boosts Pinoy World Music

From page G1

was launched in October 2000 and is available at Tower Records and Music One.

"We plan to release a second album by July or August," says Diwa. "Compared to the first one which is 80 to 85 percent instrumental, this album will feature more text and vocals. At *mas* democratic *na ang* songwriting *dito. Sa* first *kasi ako muna ang nag*-compose."

Contribution

"*Mas maraming nasagasaan na* genres *ngayon*," grins Otto. "*At sa isang kanta, lahat kami halos may* contribution."

The second album is tentatively titled "Patintero sa Ilalim ng Buwan." "Patintero" is a happy song, the band says.

"*Kung mapapansin mo*," says Diwa, "*lahat ng* songs *namin* positive. *Walang* angst-angst. Our overview of the world is positive."

"Unconscious 'to," explains Otto. "'*Di naman namin pinaplano pero yun ang lumalabas kasi bata pa nga kami. 'Di pa nakakatikim ng sakit. Masaya, walang problema.*"

When asked how being in the band affects their lifestyle, the heretofore silent Wed did the answering while his fellow band members hooted:

"*Mahirap na* challenge," he said, ignoring their cat calls. "Aside from my day job, I teach oil-painting, sculpture and humanities at St. Scholastica, I have to go to meetings, etc. '*Pag may gig inaabot ng madaling araw 'yun, tapos kailangan ko pang gumawa ng* lesson plan. *Kailangan lang sariling diskarte kasi hindi pupuwedeng maging* mediocre *ka sa* any of your professions."

Wed is the only one of the five who has finished college so far. He graduated from the College of Fine Arts, UP Diliman, with a degree in Sculpture, and won a Best Thesis Award. He also won the grand prize in the sculpture category of the Shell National Students Art Competition.

TO educate but not alienate is the band's battlecry.

"*Nag-aaral pa kami*," the others say a bit sheepishly (they're all 22, except David, who's 24).

Music major

Diwa is a music major at UP, and he is also a freelance songwriter, having done some jingles for NGOs and the DOH, as well as being the full-time band manager of Makiling Ensemble.

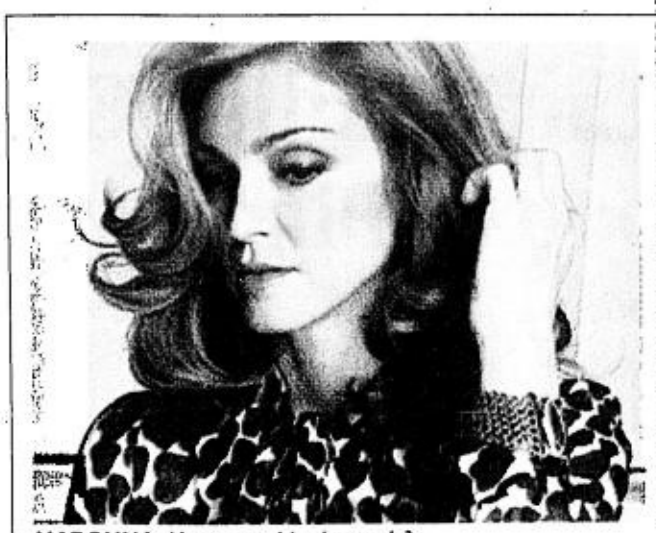
Evan is also a music major (Music Education) at UP. David is taking up Painting at the College of Fine Arts, and he paints when he's not doing a gig.

Otto, a currently inactive member of the shadow play group Anino, is also studying Fine Arts and he conducts workshops on the visual arts and does set and production designs for concerts, etc.

"Our goal is to just keep on playing and making music," says Diwa. "We want to be at par with mainstream choices like Britney and the Backstreet Boys. World music is core music, and the core of the Philippines is ethnic music. We want to elevate it the way the Jamaicans elevated reggae."

With their innovative and ear-catching fusion of world music, Philippine music, and modern musical idioms, Makiling Ensemble is already starting to attract a following in the international scene. Hopefully, Filipinos will soon discover this new and intriguing group that has been under our very own noses for quite sometime!

MEMBERS of the group are alumni of the Philippine High School for the Arts at Mt. Makiling.



MADONNA. Unreasonable demands?

Madonna a 'real trouper' in play rehearsals

LONDON—Pop icon Madonna is no prima donna.

So said her publicist on Thursday, dismissing media reports that the superstar had made a string of unreasonable demands before her London stage debut next month in "Up for Grabs."

Raised stage

Madonna was said to have demanded a raised stage to stop fans rushing her, theater staff were told not to have eye contact with her and cast members were firmly told not to use her nickname "Madge."

"It is absolute rubbish," spokeswoman Barbara Charone told Reuters when asked about the press reports.

The London box office was besieged last month when it was announced that Madonna was to star in Australian playwright David Williamson's hit play about an ambitious art dealer.

A spokeswoman for the producers said: "She has been utterly charming in rehearsals. Everyone is very relaxed and she is mucking in like a trouper."

First night

Matinee performances for the play, which has its first night on May 23, have had to be cancelled because of Madonna's recording commitments.

She last appeared on the stage in 1988 when she played a secretary on Broadway in American playwright David Mamet's satire on Hollywood, "Speed the Plow." ***Reuters***

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Rapper Mos Def garners raves for his performance

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Mos Def knew the pressure would be on when he made his debut in Broadway's "Topdog/Underdog."

After all, he was a rapper who had never before acted on Broadway. And he was taking over a role that had won rave reviews last summer for Don Cheadle, a critically acclaimed film star and Golden Globe winner who co-starred in the play off-Broadway.

Reverence

But the feeling Mos Def experienced wasn't nervousness, he says. It was reverence.

"(It was) this sacred type of feeling ... reverence for the play, reverence for the theme, reverence for the performers," he explains in a deep, almost monotone voice. "It was beyond nervousness. You can't even describe it. But all the while even feeling this, I was like, 'I can do this.'"

Mos Def opened to mostly critical raves on April 7 in Suzan-Lori Parks' play, which won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for drama the next day. Though some reviewers liked him better than Cheadle, others found his performance not as polished or vocally adept.

Charisma

"He has extraordinary charisma," says director George C. Wolfe, who selected Mos Def for the part. "I think he's very hard-working. I think he has a very large heart and a goodness. And I think those things come across on stage in a very strong way.

"And I think he has an incredible emotional reserve."

Mos Def plays opposite Jeffrey Wright in the two-character play about a pair of fiercely competitive brothers, one named Lincoln, the other Booth. Mos Def portrays Booth, the younger, more insecure sibling who is trying to build a new career as a three-card-monte con man.

"It was challenging, and I enjoy the challenge, because challenge is growth," Mos Def says about his role. "It is a difficult piece, physically, emotionally, mentally, and it's worthwhile doing it.

"The most challenging thing is ... being in command of the rhythm of the play as an actor, because it's a slippery kind of piece, and it has a naturalism to it, but it also has an abstraction to it that as an actor ... From a mental standpoint, you really have to negotiate and be very pointed about what you do."

Parks admits she wasn't even aware Mos Def had acting ability when Wolfe mentioned the rapper as a replacement for Cheadle, whose film commitments kept him from reprising his role on Broadway.

"I knew him as a rapper but I also knew him from having met him several times at the play," says Parks. "He would come running up after each show, saying, 'This is great!' ... So I knew him best as an audience person."

Dedication

What impresses Parks most about Mos Def is his dedication to the part.

"He came to the first rehearsal having learned all his lines, which is really incredible ... That's a sign of respect and interest, and I was really pleased," she says. "He's also fearless in a way; he's not afraid to act like a knuckle head ... do what the part requires."

Wolfe had been aware of Mos Def's acting talent for a while.

"At one point, there was going to be a filmed version of (the Broadway musical) 'Jelly's Last Jam,' and he came in to audition for me," says Wolfe. "When it became clear that Don Cheadle couldn't do it ('Topdog/Underdog'), I thought of him, he auditioned and was wonderful."

Mos Def's performance may surprise those who know him only for his rap career, one in which he has managed to distinguish himself not only by his lyrical skill, but by his impassioned Afrocentric raps and his community activism.

But the 28-year-old, whose real name is Dante Smith, says he's no acting novice.

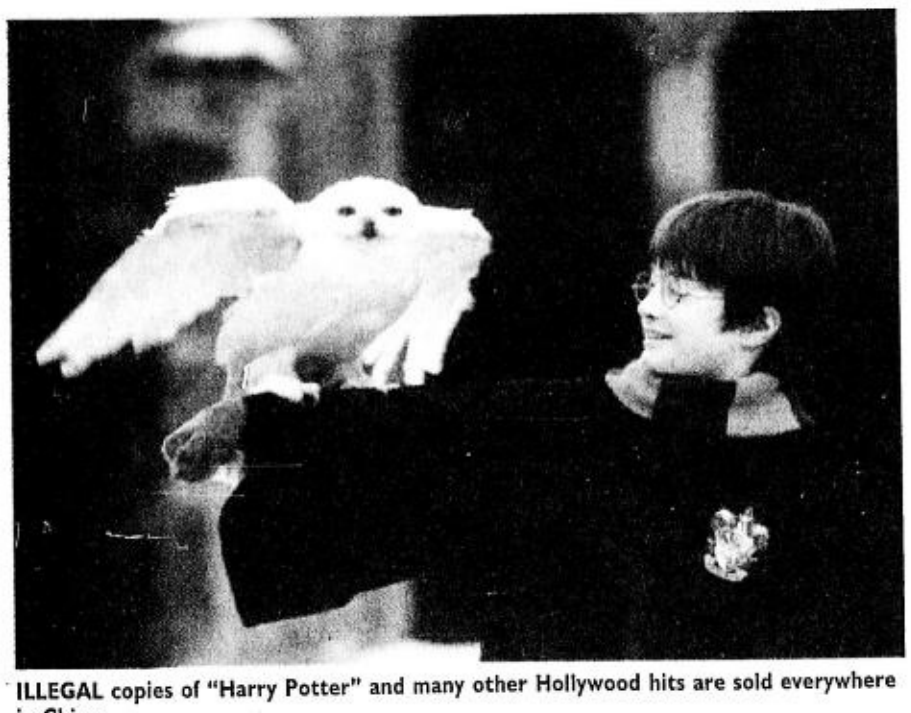
"My professional acting career predates my professional music career by a number of years," says Mos Def, who has had supporting roles in MTV's "Carmen—A Hip-Hopera," Spike Lee's "Bamboozled," "Monster's Ball" and the recent "Showtime," starring Robert De Niro and Eddie Murphy.

Musician

"It's easier to get noticed as a musician than it is as an actor," Mos Def says. "I've done loads of work as an actor that a lot of people are unaware of. So when they see me in roles after I've become noticed as a musician, they see it as a new thing, but it's really many, many years old."

Mos Def got his start as an actor in the late 1980s, appearing on television. He even landed a supporting role in a short-lived Bill Cosby show, "The Cosby Mysteries," in 1994.

While his acting career grew modestly, his rap career was gaining notice. Guest appearances on records by more mainstream artists raised his visibility. ***AP***



ILLEGAL copies of "Harry Potter" and many other Hollywood hits are sold everywhere in China.

'Hey, Mister! Harry Potter? Lord of the Rings? American Pie 2?'

By Ted Anthony

BEIJING—Didn't you know? George C. Scott and Karl Malden were great in "American Pie 2." The grizzled duo also shone in "Tomb Raider," "Life is Beautiful," "The Truman Show." and the Civil War drama "Glory."

Erotic story

And just glimpsing the two lovely ladies on the DVD cover is enough to attract viewers to the erotic story of "Henry and June"—starring, rather alarmingly, Karl Malden and George C. Scott!

Such are the weird juxtapositions of the entertainment world in China—thanks to a booming business in the illegal copying and sale of American films.

Why bother with factually or even grammatically correct packaging in a market where English is—at best—a second language? Just simply lift credits off one movie and slap them on covers of another, and another, and another.

From yesterday's "The Wizard of Oz" and "Vertigo" to today's "Harry Potter" and "crazy/beautiful," illegal copies of Hollywood movies are everywhere in urban China.

Old technique

Some are harvested by the old technique of spiriting a video camera into a movie theater. Most others are perfect copies encoded onto DVD—some even with actor interviews, restored outtakes and other extras.

The government insists it's taking action. It often holds high-profile destruction-fests of illegal DVDs and CDs—like one last summer where 15 woodchippers shredded 16 million fakes into plastic slivers.

But in reality, fakes rule.

In Beijing, they're hawked by guys in suspiciously padded parkas. In full view of Beijing's finest, they thrust fistfuls of this week's theatrical releases in your face: "Sir! DVDs? VCDs? Mooooovies?" In bars and restaurants, smiling men with black garbage bags full of DVDs let you peruse their stock while you await your appetizers.

It's impossible to tell where the movies come from, though authorities have identified coastal southern China as a particularly fertile manufacturing ground. But from the packaging it's clear the copiers are either a) not accustomed to English, or b) duplicating originals with character-recognition software that should be returned for a refund.

Consider "Booige Nights," or "Swordfish," starring "Ahalle Beiry." Then there's the new "Planet of the Apes"—described as a "hilarious encore to the runaway smash hit 'Sister Act'" and starring George C. Scott and Karl Malden.

Other selections

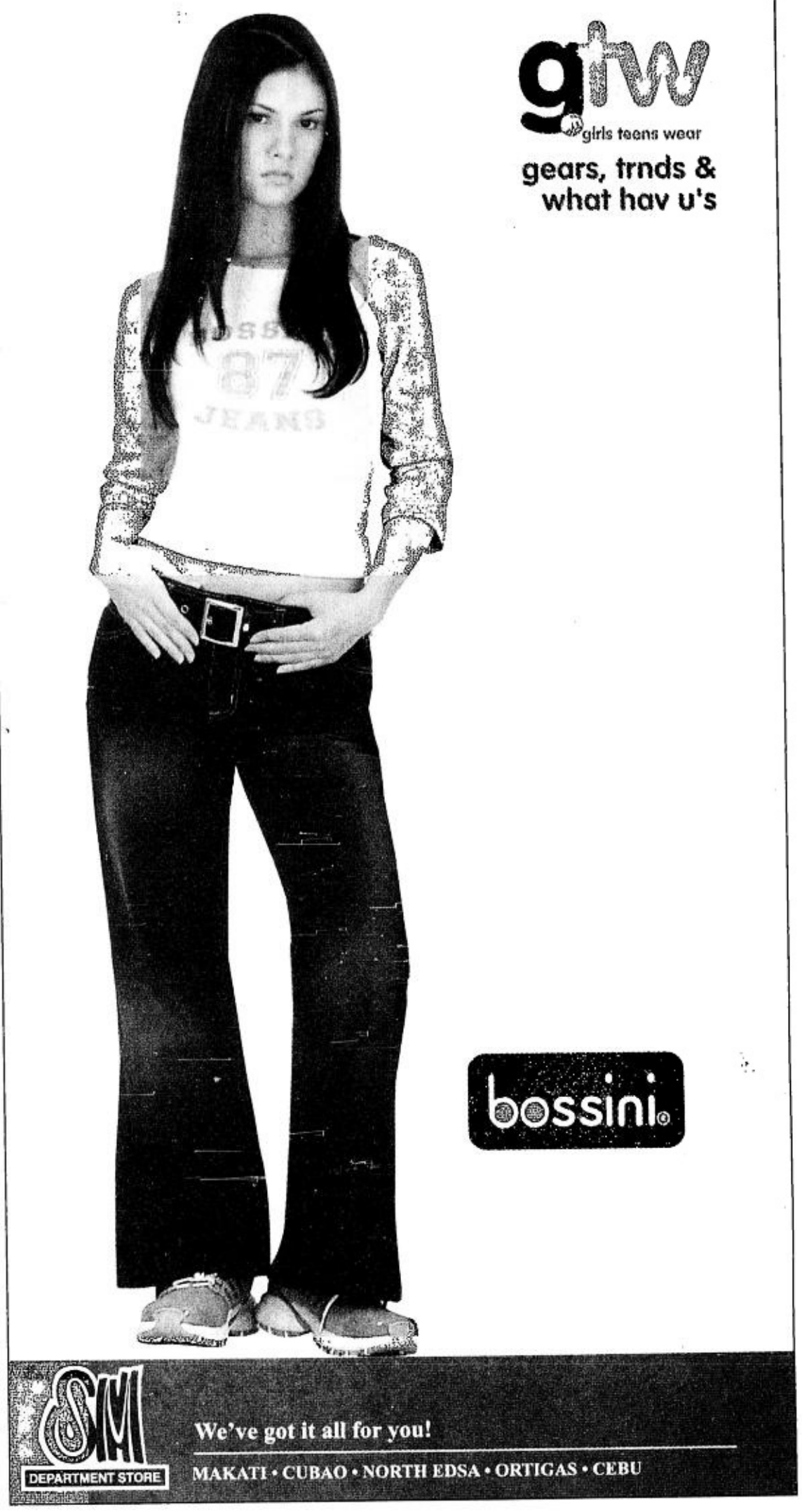
Among other selections on a recent evening:

•"Heat," described as "ALOS ANGLES CRIME SAG" and starring, on the front, "Al Pacione" and "Robeat De Niro." On the back, the credits insist it stars . . . George C. Scott and Karl Malden!

•Kevin Smith's "Jay and Silwnt Bob Strike Back," with this description: "But proudly how long they can not be, and original this film does not have a share."

Diverse though they may be, every fraudulent DVD is faithful to the original in one way: All feature prominent copyright warnings on the labels. But show a police officer a block from the hawkers your freshly purchased booty and he'll shrug.

"It's illegal to sell them," he says. "But it's not illegal to buy them. What can I do?" ***AP***



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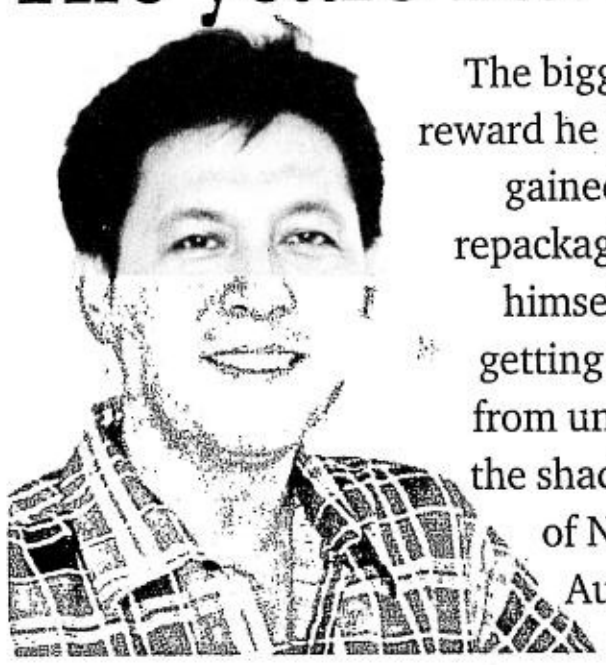
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0544 Series of 2002.

The years have been kind to Tirso Cruz III



The biggest reward he has gained in repackaging himself is getting out from under the shadow of Nora Aunor

By Remy M. Umerez

THE SHOW BIZ career of Tirso Cruz III is full of unexpected twists. From a skinny balladeer at El Bodegon, he rose to become the other half of the Guy and Pip love team. It was a screen partnership that ran like the plot of a *telenovela*.

Fondness

It is with fondness that Pip looks back on those halcyon years:

"If it were not for the love team, *baka nanatiling* folk singer *na lang ako*. It was a golden chapter in my career filled with warm memories and show biz intrigues. It was good while it lasted and I have no regrets that I was part of it. The important thing is, we made millions of fans happy."

Pip felt like he was stranded on an island when the magic of the love team faded. But he soon vowed to move on and discovered other alternatives.

Then someone tapped him to play the chief villain in "Ganti ng Api" opposite Ronnie Ricketts.

He was flattered to know that he was Ricketts' personal choice. The actor took it as a sign meant for him to stage a comeback.

Villain roles

Despite not making movies for sometime, Pip remained well-informed on the changing moods of the local movie industry. He observed how lead actors were gradually shifting to villain roles, as in the case of Edu Manzano or Eddie Gutierrez. "They were effective and I thought of it as a career move worth venturing into," he recalls.

Portraying mean characters was more than a challenge for Pip. He was soon deluged with similar offers from television.

The shift in image earned Pip acting recognition. He bagged an acting trophy from the Star Awards for TV for his role in "Valiente." The tele-series, which ran for five years, depicted Pip as someone who was evil since the day he was born.

A GMA mainstay, Pip has managed to get the juiciest part everytime the network conceives a *telenovela*. In the current soap "Sana Ikaw Na Nga," he endlessly heaps misery on his poor wife played by actress Jacklyn Jose.

Wife beater

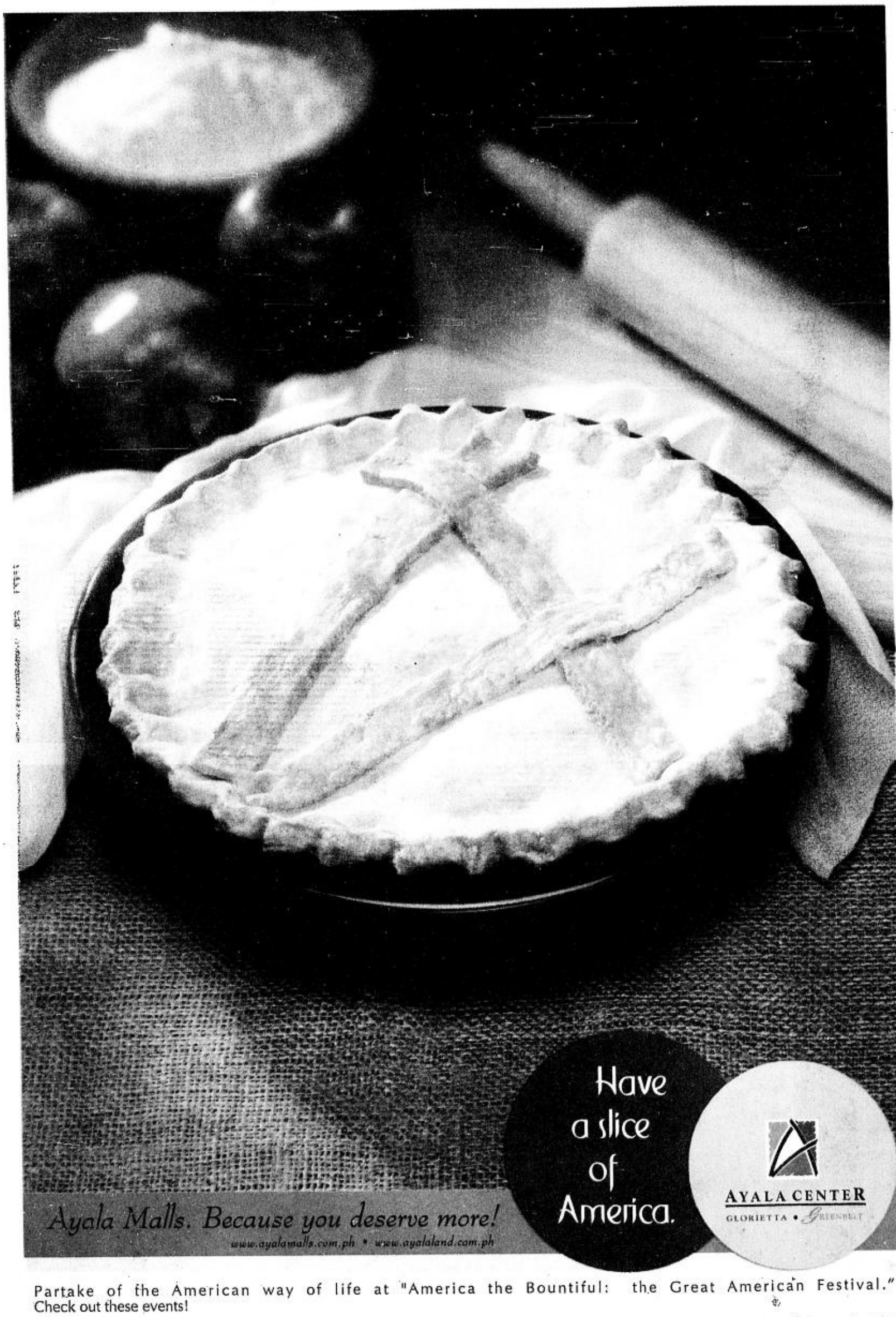
"I am the personification of evil: a wife beater, a *lasenggo* and a bad loser. People on the streets don't call me Pip anymore, they call me Juancho, my TV character's name. That makes me happy. It proves that they are really watching the series, and hopefully appreciate my acting."

On its fifth month of airing, "Sana Ikaw Na Nga" boasts of a star-studded cast with new characters being introduced to make the plot more interesting.

Pip is setting no limits on how far he will carry his new image. "To whatever extent the censors allow. Character roles have a big advantage because they provide room for experimentation," he observes.

According to Pip, the biggest reward he has gained in repackaging himself is to getting out from under the shadow of Nora Aunor. He is now recognized on his own merits.

This May, Pip will be seen in a new *telesine* titled "Bugso" which marks the return of Ms Vilma Santos to GMA.



Delicious pastries at Fleur De Lys

RESTAURANTS have mushroomed around the Morato area, many of them over flowing with hungry diners. With such positive response, many of their owners expanded all over the metropolis. A few months after later, however, they end up scratching their heads, wondering what happened to what *seemed* like a sure success.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Curious diners

Let me speculate: All restaurants, when new, will always be flooded with curious diners, specially, if the place is beautifully decorated. If the food is not exceptional, I believe diners will realize it isn't really worth going back.

Another attraction is the low prices or great deals but so-so food quality that many food establishments offer. In the beginning, they do well, but just like the others, they end up closing shop. In the end, it is the taste of the food that will make or break a place.

I was a recent witness to such an establishment. We walked in, and the place was packed to the rafters. I heard the place was ready to expand to another location. When we tried the pizza and pasta, it was a complete letdown. Portions were huge but it is a place like this that'll attract patrons in the beginning but later on fade away. Watch!

Depressed

PASTRY chef Jackie Ang.

Everytime I have such an experience, I get depressed. To me, it is a waste of stomach space. A friend once asked me why I kept on repeating that the food we just had was such a letdown. That's how passionate I have become about food. "OA" or weird to some, but that's what it is to a foodie. All foodies understand. Anyway, after such an experience, one of my quick remedies is to try and salvage the situation by trying to find something good to make up for experience.

Mon suggested we try this new pastry place along the Timog-Morato rotonda. Fleur De Lys Patisserie at the F.L.P. bldg. As you walk in, you will notice the meticulously decorated pastry shop, and you'll know a lady runs the show.

We had three desserts, all were beautifully presented—and the taste even surpassed the appearance. Extraordinary!

The first one was called Cheesecake by Request, a light cheesecake with a nicely strawberry sauce. Just the right amount of sweetness.

Chocoholics' dream

The second one was a warm Chocolate with Tiramisu Ice cream and nuts. A chocoholics' dream! The presentation was mouth watering.

And the third was "Nuts About You," a macadamia nut tarte with pistachio ice cream. I love nut pies. This has become one of my favorites. The inter-play of warm and cold makes a nice blend in the mouth. I love it!

There were too many inviting pastries to try but so little space to accommodate them. I declared my "McArthur" saying, "I shall return." Beware! Sweet tooths and those on a diet, stay clear of the area. *Sira ang* diet *nyo* (but worth every calorie, trust me). I have to go back for those three pastries plus the others.

The magician behind these pastries is young and pretty Pastry Chef Jackie Ang. She comes out in a show on TV with baking diva Heny Sison.

Comes highly recommended: Fleur De Lys, tel. 372-0631.

Happy Eating!

Have a slice of America.

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Partake of the American way of life at "America the Bountiful: the Great American Festival." Check out these events!

Restaurant Menu Promo. April 15 to May 19. Enjoy the best of American cuisine, and get a chance to win a free trip to the US! Participating restaurants: Azzurro, California Pizza Kitchen, Dome Cafe, Don Henrico's, Melo's, National Sports Grill, Taters Stadia, Tequila Joe's and Tony Roma's.

Field to Fashion Exhibit. May 14 to 19. Greenbelt 1. See idyllic scenes of the peacetime era, featuring well-loved American food and beverage brands.

The Cook Culinary Competition. May 11. Glorietta 4 Park. Join a Memphis-style open barbecue competition, the Marvelous US Duckling Competition, Don Henrico's Largest Pizza Challenge, the great American apple pie competition, and other food face-offs -- plus an "Elvis Presley Look-Alike and Sing-Alike" Contest. All open to the public.

Food Bazaar and the Great American Home. April 27 to 30. Glorietta Activity Center.

Feast on all these, only at Ayala Center.

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 29

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Rare planetary line-up heralds calm

SUPERMARKET queues will be shorter, road rage will ease and everyone will be getting on better over the next few weeks thanks to a rare planetary grouping, astrologers believe.

Absolute nonsense, say astronomers.

From now until early June the five planets that can be seen with the naked eye—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn — will move into a rough grouping on the same, visible, side of the sun, something that happens only once a century.

"People will be able to see the planets with the naked eye lining up about 45 minutes after sunset," said Robert Warren at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

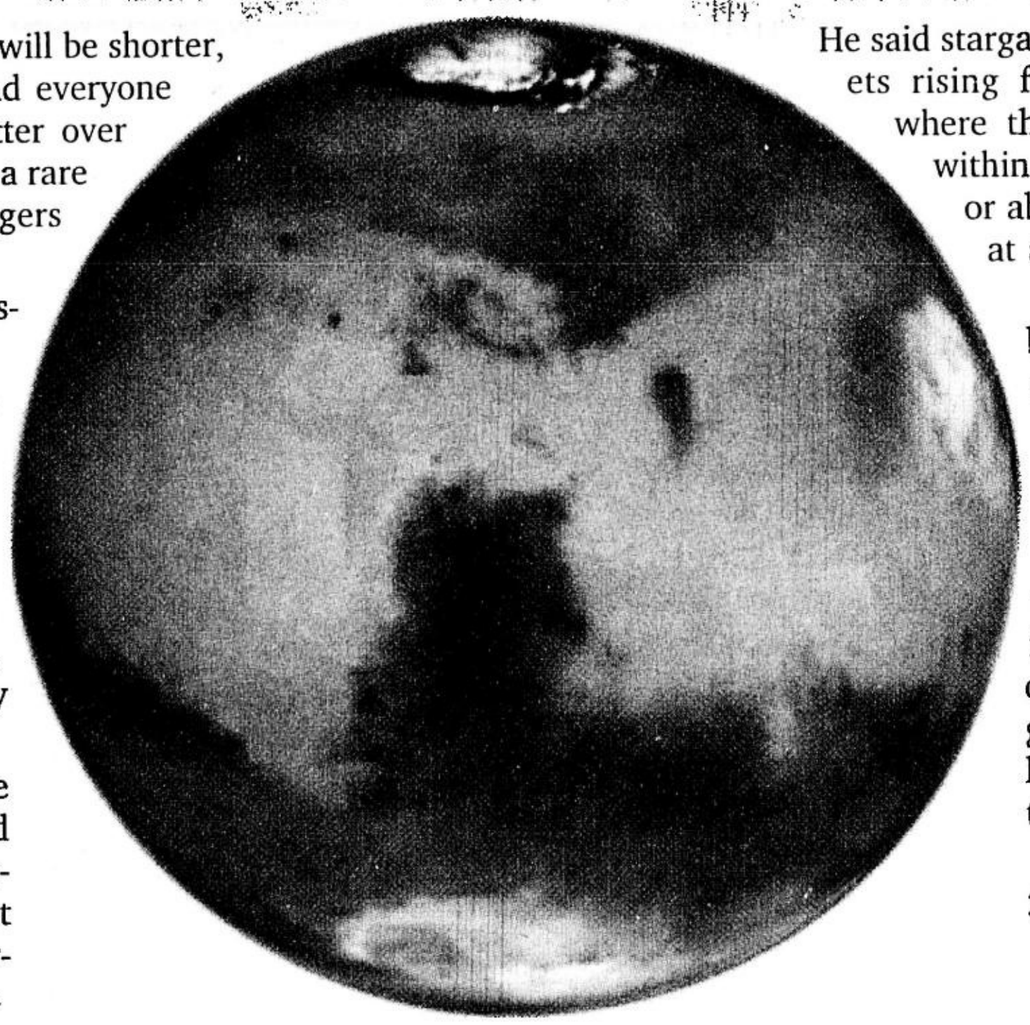
He said stargazers should watch the planets rising from the western horizon where the five should be grouped within a span of 10 degrees of sky, or about the width of a fist held at arm's length.

While astronomers are busy swinging their telescopes westwards, astrologers are reaching for their charts and predicting great changes.

"The coming together of the five naked eye planets in conjunction with other cosmic influences will greatly affect the collective human unconscious," astrologer said Walter Berg.

Berg said a chart for April 30 predicted greater human

Rare/p.5



PLANETARY LINEUP. The planet Mars is shown in this June 30, 1999 file photo taken by the Hubble space telescope. From now until early June the five planets that can be seen with the naked eye—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn—will move into a rough grouping on the same, visible, side of the sun, something that happens only once a century. *Reuters/NASA*

Teens Write!

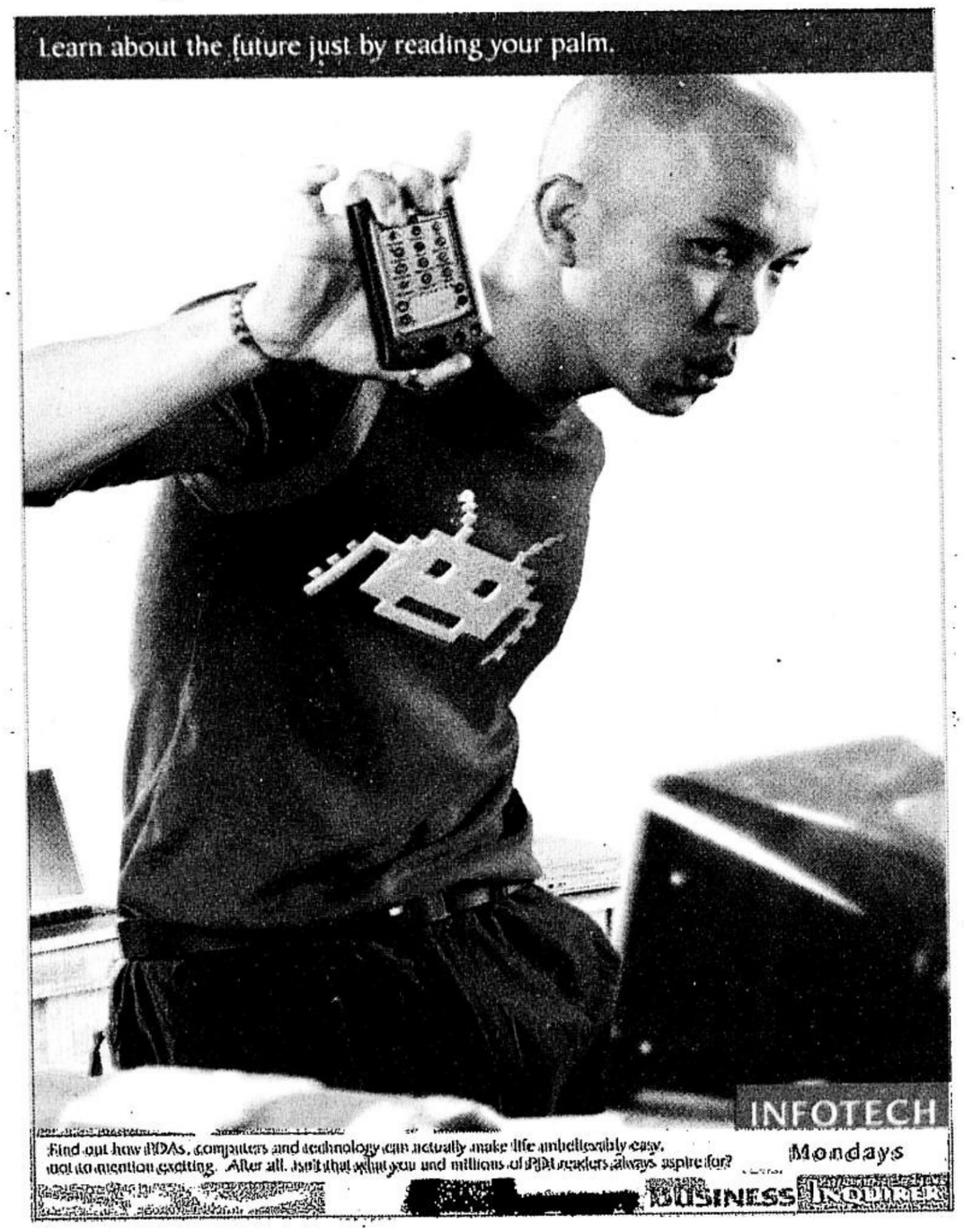
SO FORMAL. Having just met each other, the workshop participants pose ever-so formally at the end of the week, cellphone numbers had been traded, thoughts confided and friends were made.

TWENTY young writers, hailing from different high schools just graduated from this year's Teen Read Camp. Held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in Tagytay was a whole week of literature workshops, discussions and slam sessions, with established writers as facilitators. Some of the country's top writers who shared their thoughts with the teen writers are: Conrado de Quiros, Marjorie Evasco, Lourd de Veyra, and Ruel de Vera. Three genres of literature were discussed during the camp—fiction, essay and poetry. Teen Read Camp is a part of an annual reading campaign for teens mounted by Adarna House, Candy Magazine, Filipinas Heritage Library, MTV Ink and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. As a major partner in the project and in support of teen writing, the DAP offered its facilities for free.

A Camp Orientation was held last March 23 at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Together with their parents and teachers, the chosen participants were briefed about the camp's details and specifics. They also got the chance to meet their fellow campers for the first time.

The 20 young campers, chosen on the merits for their literary submissions, are: Anna Mae dela Cruz (Poveda Learning Center); Isabelle Therese Baguisi (St. Paul College, Pasig); Josefa Nantes (UPIS); Louella Yu (Immaculate Conception Academy); Ysabelle Hope Reyes (Miriam College); Angela Serrano (Miriam College); Israel Soltura (UP Rural High School, Laguna); Karina Cupino (Community of Learners); Marguerite de Leon (Philippine Science High School for the Arts); Monica Bianca Balictar (Miriam College); Peter Felix (Southville International School); Alyx Arumpac (Philippine High School for the Arts); Amianan Padilla (UPIS); Christa Castillo (Poveda Learning Center); Elea Almazora (Miriam College); John Joshua Bartolome (Philippine High School for the Arts); Jose Luis Asuncion (Ateneo de Manila); Lourdes La Vina (Philippine High School for the Arts); Monica Macansantos (Baguio City National High School); and Nerissa Camposano (St. Scholastica's College).

The Teen Read Camp is the only project supported by four major university creative writing centers: Likhaan: UP Creative Writing Center, Institute for Literary Arts and Practices (Ateneo de Manila University), University of Sto. Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies, and Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center (De La Salle University).



World Scope

Model Museum

A STUDENT reacts while trying out the "Glowing Ball" at the Shanghai Science & Technology Museum in Pudong New Area, Shanghai. Pudong became the science and technology development center of China in recent years and more than 7,800 foreign firms from 70 countries have invested in the area. The museum was the main venue of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting held in Shanghai in 2001. ***AP***

Endangered Tigers

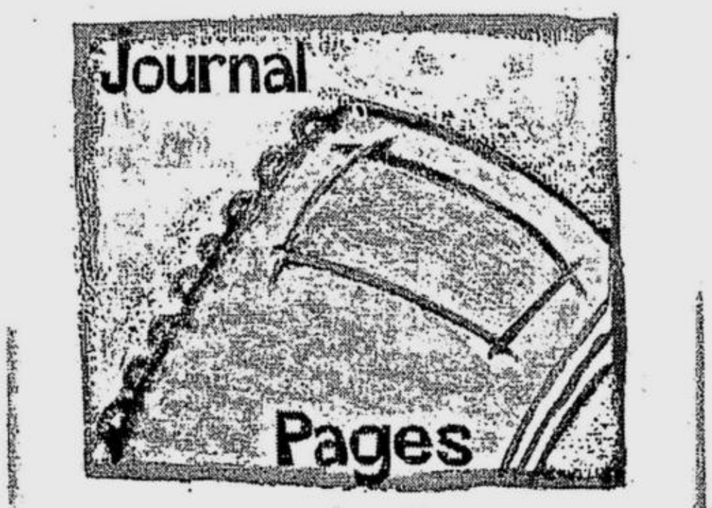
TWO 2-month old South China Tiger cubs play at a nursery compartment at the Shanghai Zoo. The South China tiger is the most threatened, and the closest to extinction of all tiger species due to reckless hunting and reduced habitat. Found in southern China, less than 100 South China tigers still exist in the wild. ***AP***

Wheeling Win

EDITH Hunkeler of Switzerland celebrates at the finish line to win theWo-men's Wheelchair Division of the Boston Marathon. ***AP***

Tough Egg

THIS still image taken from a video camera shows a pair of California Condors caring for their newborn chic (lower center). The chic, conceived and hatched in the wild, in their cave nest in Ventura, California. The condor chick was the first in 18 years to survive more than a day, said Mike Wallace, a wildlife scientist with the San Diego Zoo. Its egg was the fourth laid in the wild since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began releasing captive-bred condors in 1992, but two of those eggs never hatched and the other quickly died. ***AP***



Blooming in Bloomfield

By Jenny de Guzman
Bloomfield Academy
Las Piñas City

MY school is Bloomfield Academy and is located in BF Resort Village in Las Piñas City. Few do not know our school, so let me give you a scoop of B.A.

First: in 1998, Bloomfield walked away with the spoils in the Battle of the Brains Asean invitational competition (with new friends to boot) and got the silver at Discovery Channel's Worldwise Whiz Quiz.

Second: Bloomfield's students have been consistent achievers in contests, from brain games to artistic contests to athletics.

Third: we have a lot of wonderful talented and friendly teachers roaming around the school grounds when they are free, to be with their students and join in their laughter.

Fourth: B.A. staff and faculty members smile a lot. They are true blessings of God to Bloomfield and to us, students.

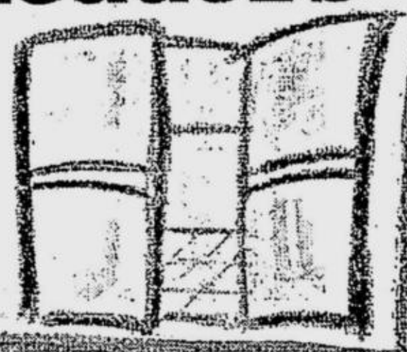
Fifth: Last Christmas, the B.A. Children's Chorale bagged first place in a caroling competition sponsored by Tradenet.

Not only are B.A. students excellent learners but tenacious achievers. These are my top five reasons why I can't let go of this school. The pride of Bloomfield is the pride of everyone. As our motto goes: Let love light your life or *Amor Illuminet Vitam Tuam*. Bloomfield Academy the portal to success and a good life.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Leo Learns

DEAR Editor,

I find reading your magazine so interesting. I think students' Saturdays will be more productive if all children like me will spend their weekend reading the articles published in your paper. In reading JI, students will be more aware and they can easily cope with the things that happen in our country. The jarring news that hog our headlines nowadays should teach us lessons. And your kiddie magazine, as media, performs a great role in imparting knowledge. So keep up the good work. JI performs a job well done.—**LEO MARVIN P. BALANTE**, 13, Pateros Catholic School

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Rare Planetary line -up heralds calm (from page 1)

harmony and increased teamwork.

"That will manifest itself in shorter supermarket queues, quieter roads and people getting on better," he said.

"It will be like an army marching in step."

Joyce Hopewell of the Astrological Psychology Institute agreed. "The focus is on Gemini which is all about communication," she said.

Berg said the movement of planets through space affects the solar magnetic field which in turn affects the geo magnetic field influencing people's central nervous system.

This in turn means people will be more in tune with each other and better equipped to avoid the petty hassles and confrontations of everyday life.

But not everyone is convinced.

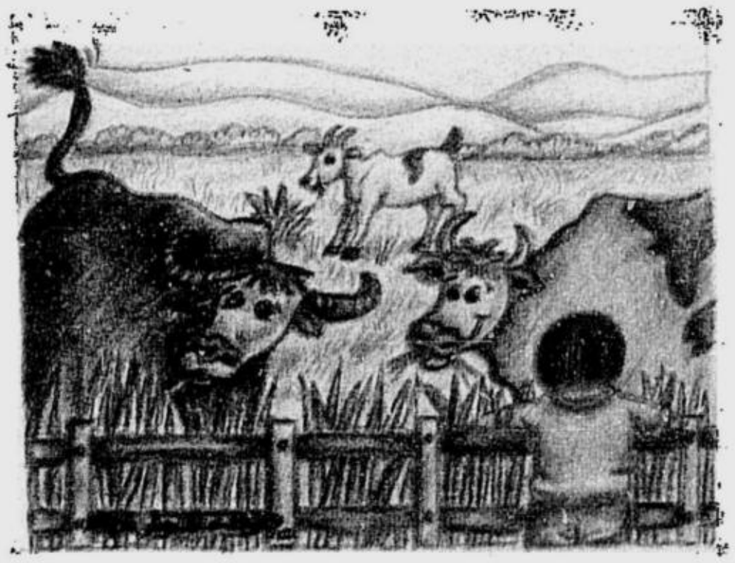
"Complete rubbish," said Robert Massey, an astronomer at the Royal Observatory.

"It is bizarre to say planets have that sort of an impact. It would be really impressive if the planets suddenly produced world peace—but I doubt it will happen," he said. ***Reuters***

Sa Aming Probi

FOR or By KIDS

Mga Tula ni
Genaro R. Gojo Cruz
Guhit ni
Mitzi Aguilar-Reyes



Ang Pastulan

Pagkapasok pa lamang
sa aming bayan,
agad na makakaagaw ng pansin
ang isang malawak
na pastulan;
berdeng-berde at kay sariwa
ng mga damo,
gustung-gusto
ng mga matataba
at malulusog na baka,
kalabaw, at kambing.

Bawat makakita'y
lumuluwag
ang damdamin
dahil sa malinis
na hangin
at kay gandang tanawin.

Ang Puno ng Santol

Matanda na ang puno ng santol.
Sabi ni Tatay,
Itinanim pa ito ni Lolo noong
panahon ng Hapon.
Ngunit kahit matanda
na ang puno ng santol,
hitik pa rin ito kung mamunga.
Maliliit lamang ang mga bunga.
May asim ngunit nakakalamang
ang tamis.

Ihahanda ang isang platitong asin
at isang nang pambihirang meryenda
sa aming magkakaibigan.

At kung pagmamasdan sa malayo
ang puno ng santol,
ang mga bunga
ay tila maliliwanag na bumbilya.

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nsiya

Ang Sapa

Dito kami naliligo
ng aking mga kaibigan
lalo na kung
nag-iinit ang balat
at bumbunan
sa matinding
sikat ng araw.
Mababaw lamang ang sapa,
Hindi lalampas ng tuhod.
Kay linaw ng tubig
tila salamin
Kay lamig, kay inam
sa katawang naiinitan.
Maghahabulan kami
sa agos ng tubig
ng sapang tila nasisiyahan
sa mga paa naming paspasan.

Ang Balon

Sa pagsalok
kailangang maging maingat
upang hindi mabulabog
ang dumi na tumining.
Sabi ni Inang Kadyan
lahat daw ng bata
sa aming lugar
ay dito unang nilabhan
ang lampin.
Dito rin daw kumukuha
ng tubig ang pare
pangbendisyon noon.

Dito kami kumukuha
ng inumin at pampaligo
sa araw-araw.
Kamangha-mangha dahil
magpahanggang ngayon
ay hindi nauubusan ng tubig
ang balon.
Patuloy na bumubukal
ang kay sarap at kay linis
na tubig.

Ang Mga Tutubi

Mahilig kaming manghuli
ng tutubi ng aking mga kaibigan.
Lalo na yung mga malalaki
at makukulay ang pakpak
at nagkukulay berde,
asul, at abo ang mata
kapag natatamaan ng araw.

Sa panghuhuli,
kailangang tahimik na tahimik,
banayad na banayad kumilos,
walang anumang kaluskos
ang tutubing dadapu-dapo
sa dulo ng mga dahon,
bulaklak at damo.
Marahang lumapit
Habang inihahanda
ang hinlalaki at hintuturo
upang hindi lumipad
ang tutubing inaasam-asam.

Ngunit minsan,
mas nagustuhan naming magkakaibigan
na pagmasdan na lamang na lumilipad
ang magagarang tutubi
sa langit na kay lawak
at malayang dumapo,
muling lumipad gamit
ang kanilang mga tila kristal
na pakpak.

*Si **Genaro** ay isa sa mga naging fellow sa 2nd UST National Writers' Workshop na ginanap sa Baguio noong Abril 2001.*

*Si **Mitzi** ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mangaka

That's Japanese for manga writer. And it's what 12-year-old Dean Africa wants to be!

By Eline Santos

AFTER aiding a priestess in the battle with the giant squid, Leon takes a break to eat his favorite beast meat stew at the One Million Roses Tavern.

There he meets May who points out that his sword has changed. The sword now has the power of the Entrian wind spirit.

Lizard men suddenly attack the town when... the first volume of "Swords of Legend" comes to a cliffhanger ending!

Haven't heard of it? That's because "Swords of Legend" is the latest manga NOT to hit the bookstores..

This action-packed comic is the creation of 12-year-old Dean Africa, a student at the Lourdes School of Mandaluyong.

Although he has the storyline worked out in his mind, Dean won't say what happens next (it's all top-secret stuff)!

Dean's thoughts turn to his work every chance he gets.

"I think about my comic book in class," he confesses. "Just the first ten minutes," he quickly clarifies as his mom gives him a disapproving look.

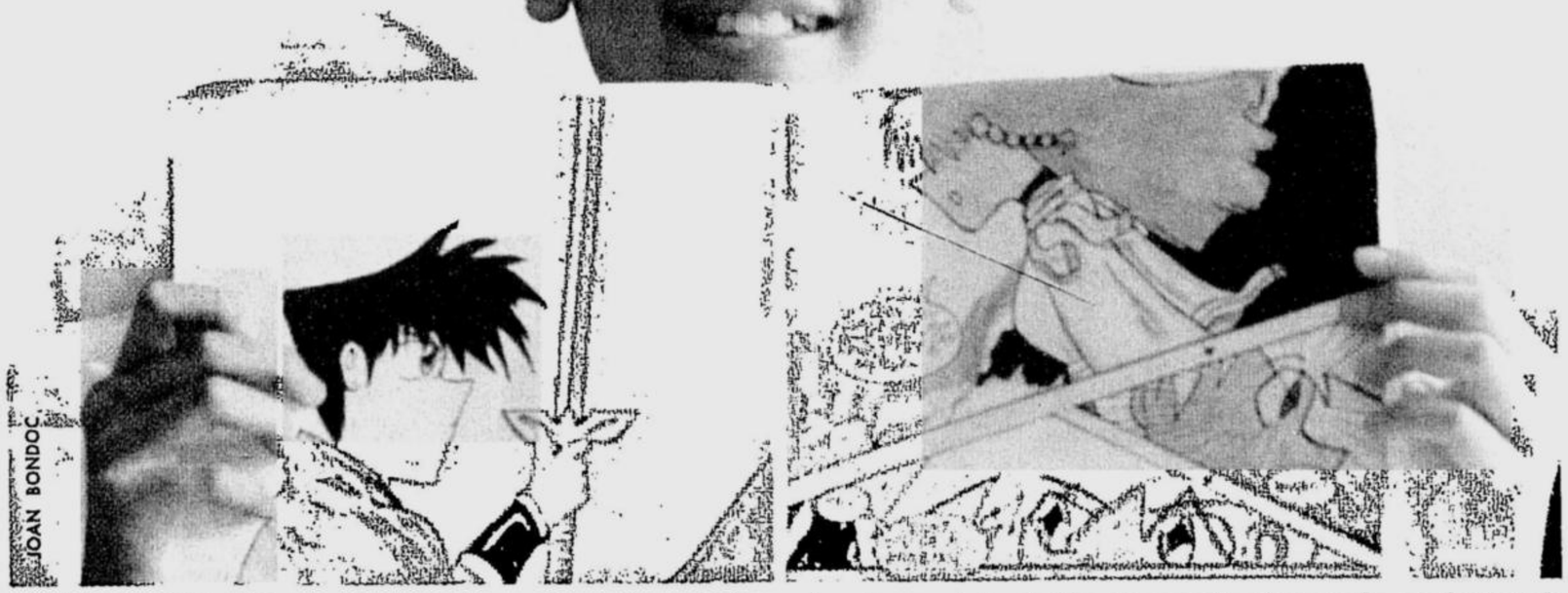
"It takes me a day to make one page if I'm not doing anything. But when there's school, it takes two days," he says.

Dean's inked 19 pages so far. Aside from the story, and art, he also does the lettering.

"I'm also into calligraphy," he points out the title on the cover page. Dean even devised an alphabet for the world he created..

The young manga writer/illustrator wants to be an animator when he grows up. And this early, he has a good idea what he wants to work on: the save-the-world-from-destruction kind of story.

But in the meantime, Leon still has the lizard men to take care of. Can he and May save the town? Where did the lizard men come from? What does the change in Leon's sword mean? For the answers, manga lovers will just have to wait for the next installment of "Swords of Legend."



ANIME FAN: "Sometimes when there's nothing else to watch, I flip through channels and watch Japanese cartoons." Even without English subtitles, Dean can still piece the story together.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:_____

Age:_____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at_____

and studies at_____

Her/his contact number is:_____

Sender's Name:_____

Sender's Age & School:_____

Sender's Address:_____

Sender's Contact No.:_____

She Be Lovin' Beanbags

She collects babies. She sells babies...Beanie Babies, that is

WHAT'S a grown-up doing with lots of small, pastel-colored stuffed animals? Thirty-eight-year-old Teresa Diaz is a bookshop owner. But deep in her heart, she's just a big Beanie Baby fan.

After five years of collecting the 8-inch stuffed toys, Teresa says she's already lost count of how many she has. Her collection includes many types of Beanie bears. There's also a killer whale, some fish, a platypus, two bats, a Chinese Zodiac rooster, a penguin, furry bunnies, a green glowworm, a Komodo dragon and a snake.

An owl named Hoot shares her penchant for being late to bed and late to rise. How does Teresa know? Because it says so on the heart-shaped card attached to each Beanie Baby's ear. The card has the doll's name, birthday and other information.

"Without it, the value of the Beanie Baby is reduced in half," she says.

Once a year, every Christmas, Teresa holds a fantastic Beanie Baby sale. She gets together with other collectors and they buy Beanie Babies from each other.

This is how she "lost" her all-time favorite Beanie Buddy Glory.

"I really regret that," she says wistfully, missing the white bear with blue and red stars. But Teresa is not just a collector. She's also an entrepreneur. The way she sees it, she's not really losing her Beanie Babies. She just lets them have new adventures and settle into new and caring homes.

Eline Santos

ANOTHER BABY. Teresa's 21 nieces and nephews call her...guess what? "Tita Baby"! An avid reader of romantic novels, she has her own book-lending shop in Sta. Mesa. JESS YUSON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is _____ years old and is my_____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_____;
2)_____;
3)_____;
4)_____;
5)_____.

My nominee lives at_____
_____.
Give him/her a call at _____ or send him/her an e-mail at_____.
By the way,
I'm_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is_____
_____.
You may call me at
_____.

Earth Watch

THE EARTH is, well, but naturally the most studied planet. Some of the many sciences dealing with our planet are listed on the left column. Can you match each with its subject matter found somewhere on the right column?

_____1. geology
_____2. meteorology
_____3. seismology
_____4. geodesy
_____5. petrology
_____6. paleontology
_____7. pedology
_____8. volcanology
_____9. hydrology
_____10. limnology
_____11. minerology
_____12. geocosmogony
_____13. speleology
_____14. orology
_____15. geochronology

A. Earth's physical nature
B. Volcanoes
C. Minerals
D. Caves
E. Earth's size and shape
F. Earthquakes
G. Soil
H. life as recorded in fossils
I. Lakes
J. Earth's origin
K. Mountains
L. waters on Earth
M. dating of events in Earth's history
N. Rocks
O. weather and atmosphere

Answers :

1. A 6. H 11. C
2. O 7. G 12. J
3. F 8. B 13. D
4. E 9. L 14. K
5. N 10. I 15. M

Ratings :

11-2

8 - 10

5 - 9

Workshops

AT THE AYALA MUSEUM. Check out Ayala Museum's schedule of workshops this May: Beginner's Oil Painting, May 8-June 8; Beginner's Watercolor, May 8-June 8; Sculpture, May 9-May 21; Basic Drawing, May 9-May 24. Classes will be held in Ayala Museum, 3rd Level of Glorietta II, Makati City. For more details call up Christy Monastrial at 810-8407.

FREE WRITING. Join the Jollibee Kids free writing workshop. Open to aspiring kiddie writers ages 7-12 years old. It will be held on May 4, 1 and 3 p.m. at Jollibee Caloocan-LRT branch; May 10, 1 and 3 p.m. at Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grandmall. For more info call up Melanie at 361-7850, Jennifer 363-5502, Tummy 363-5401, Pearl 984-5398 for Caloocan area; Michelle 681-5132, Cindy 645-5716, Mike 645-6295 for the Sta. Lucia branch. Register early!

SUMMER SPORTS. Make your summer a sporty one by joining the Milo Sports Clinics. This year, Milo is offering 14 sports: basketball, lawn tennis, swimming, volleyball, taekwondo, badminton, karatedo, gymnastics, squash, football, bowling, ice skating, chess, and table tennis. For more info call up 911-5353.

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Cable Picks

TINTIN'S ADVENTURES. The classic cartoon series "The Adventures of Tintin" is returning to Cartoon Network. With his faithful dog Snowy, Tintin explores the most intriguing places on the globe in search of hot stories. Don't miss it. Starts May 1 at 9:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

DISCOVERY SUNDAY. Get to know some real spiders in Discovery Channel's premiere of "Profiles of Nature: Deadly Spinsters: A Spider's World" on April 28 at 7:00 p.m. Still on April 28, learn more about the world of spiders in "Tarantulas and Their Venomous Relations" at 6:00 p.m. and "Ultimate Guide: Spiders" at 8:00 p.m.

MOVIE MAGIC IN MAY. This May, let Discovery Kids take you behind the scenes and discover the secrets of movie-making in Mega Movie Magic's special episodes. Find out how make-up effects artist Rick Baker transformed the "Men in Black" creatures into scary screen aliens on May 23 and 30 at 5:30 p.m. In another episode, check out how the prehistoric beasts came alive in "The Lost World" and see how moviemakers build robotic alien mechanoids on May 30 at 5:30 p.m.

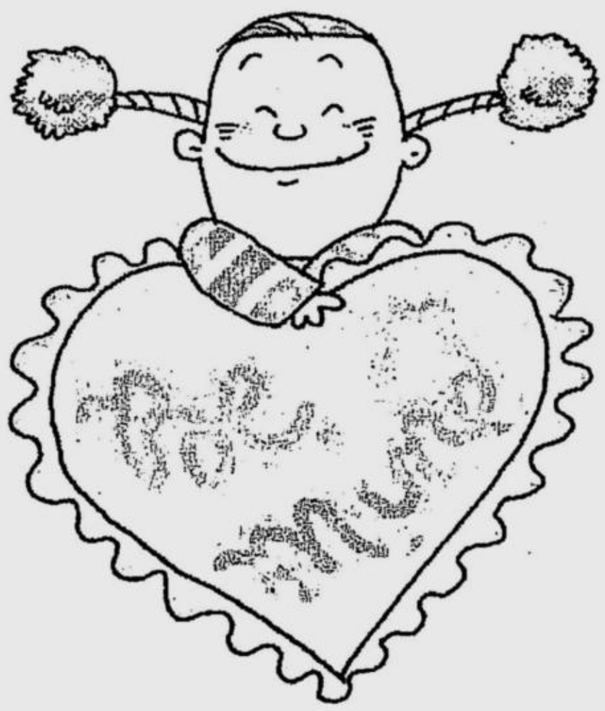
SPIDER STORIES. Learn all about spiders on Discovery Channel.

THE MONTHS

Poetry by Anna Graziella J. Barreno
Illustrations by Steph Bravo

JANUARY, the start of the year
Full of joys and cheers
It's a brand new year so start it right
And continue the rest of the days with delight.

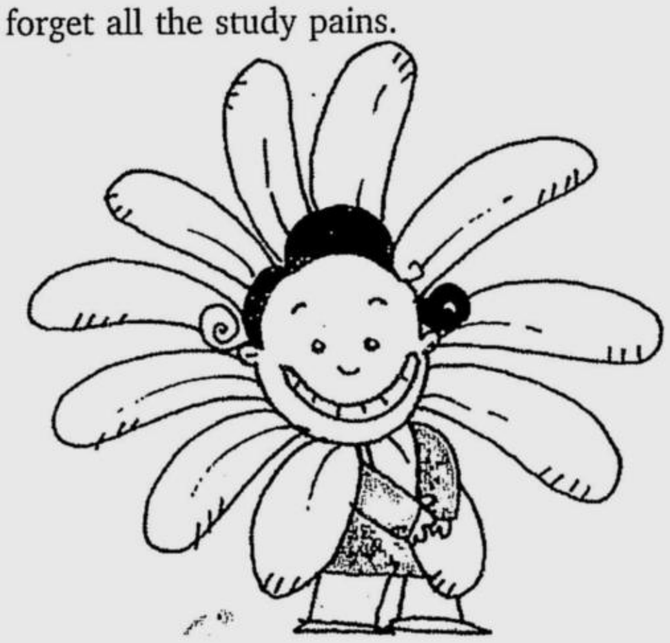
Love is in the air
In FEBRUARY, love we must truly share.



MARCH – forget about the subjects,
it's vacation time
Here come the students,
they march in the aisle
Fly high students and reach
the end of a thousand miles.

APRIL and MAY, when flowers are in bloom
They surely erase every person's gloom.

JUNE, classes start
Now, as a student, you must do your part
Up to March, wisdom you'll gain
And on graduation day,
forget all the study pains.



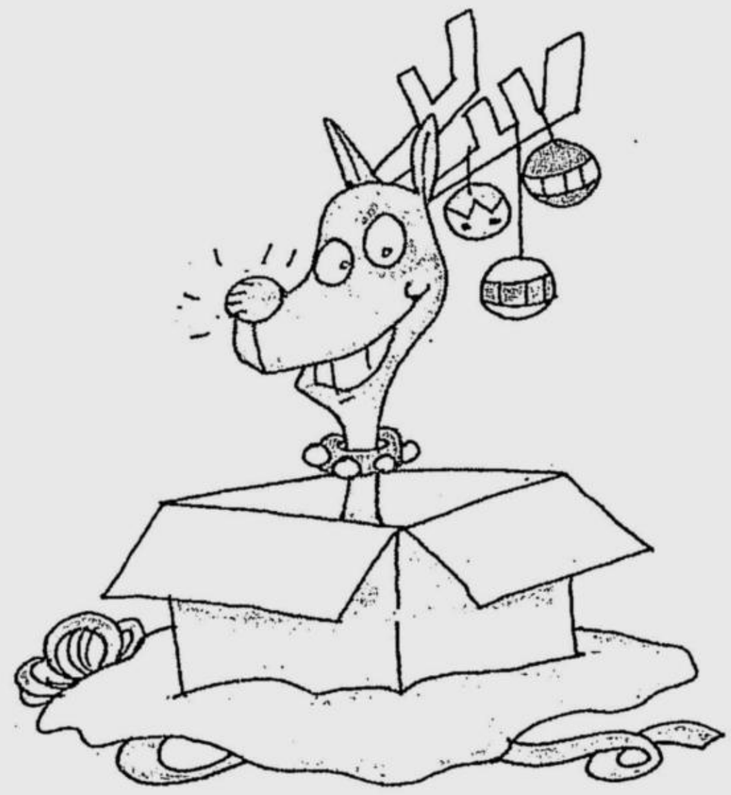
JULY, the month of typhoons
Rootcrops and trees will vanish soon
Stop illegal cutting of trees
For they provide our basic needs.

AUGUST, the month of our heroes
They spent their lives
to protect us from our foes.

The start of "Ber" months is SEPTEMBER
Christmas is just around the corner.

OCTOBER, it's Halloween
Give the children some treats
or else their naughty tricks, you'll see!

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day
On NOVEMBER, you must visit their graves.



Christmas is here, it's DECEMBER
When Jesus was born in a manger.
Time to love one another.
Forgiveness and understanding
must reign forever.

Each month of the year has its own event
We must treasure all the happy moments
And keep a piece of them in your heart
Because it comes only once in your life's part.

***Anna** is an incoming Freshman at the Quezon City Science High School.*

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Poetic Patty's Parlor

Summer's here, hip-hip hooray
All the world is mine today!
So many things that I can do
Would you want to do them too?

Unscramble the letters below to find out what Patty plans to do this summer! The periods (.) are spaces between words.

1) od.trossp _____
2) dera.skobo _____
3) og.miwnsmig _____
4) yalp.hitw.nedsirf _____
5) og.no.a.pirt _____
6) starcf _____

Answers: 1. do sports 2. read books 3. go swimming 4. play with friends 5. go on a trip 6. crafts

My Travel Journal

Date: _____

Place I visited: _____
How long I stayed: _____
Who I was with: _____
What I like about this place: _____
What I don't: _____

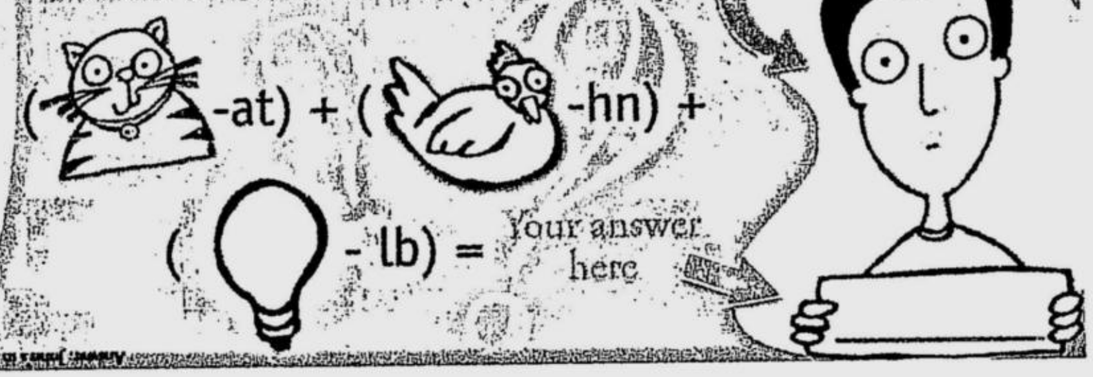
The best part of the trip was:

_____
_____
_____

Noy says: "Whether you end up in Mongolia or the mall, enjoy it and consider it a special journey. You can photocopy this page and use it to make your own travel journal this summer!"

WHERE IS JOHN?

Do some WORDMATH to solve the mystery!



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

Bush condoles; another bomb found in GenSan

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

April 28, 2002 ★★ 86 pages / 8 sections vol.17 / no. 139 P15 website: www.inq7.net

TOUGH journalist, Arlyn de la Cruz, reduced to tears at her homecoming.

TODAY IN THE Sunday INQUIRER Magazine

- Asi Taulava makes his move
- BenCab turns 60
- Harlene Bautista on family and career

Kidnapped journalist free

'If you know what I've been through, you'd say it's a miracle'

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and TJ Burgonio

WEARING a Muslim headdress and looking drained with insect bites on her arms and face, broadcast journalist Arlyn de la Cruz arrived at the Manila Domestic Airport at 12:30 p.m. after she was released by her kidnappers in Jolo earlier in the day.

The tough broadcast journalist who had been kept in captivity for 98 days was reduced to tears when she embraced her mother, Lydia Sales , half-sister Candida and godmother Cherry Cobarrubias.

"If you know what I've been through, you would say it's a miracle," she told reporters. "The first thing I'd like to do is to go home and embrace my children," the 32-year-old mother of two told reporters.

"By the grace of God, I'm finally home. I'm finally free. I'm glad to see you all."

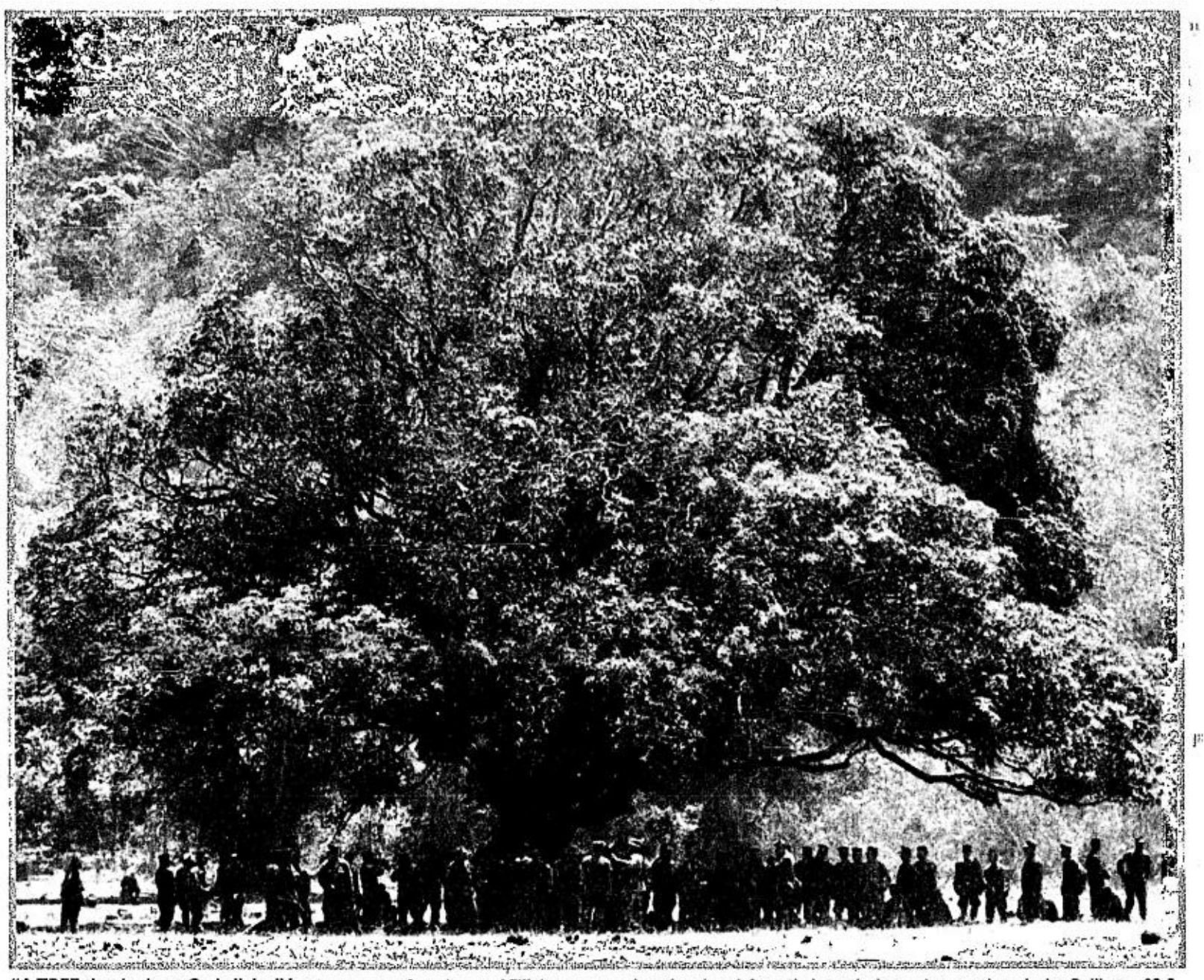
I'm very happy that I'm home. God had mercy on me. I know a lot of you presumed I was dead. Probably some of you even wished I were dead. But by the grace of God, I'm home," a sobbing De la Cruz told reporters upon her arrival in Manila.

She was accompanied on the flight from the Zamboanga City airport by Sen. Loren Legarda, who together with UP Prof. Mashur Bin Ghalib Jundam negotiated her "unconditional" release.

"I wasn't aware of the efforts by Sen. Legarda and Professor Jundam. That's why I was surprised when somebody fetched me. I was told about her (Legarda) arrival around 1 a.m. But I never got up. When I got to talk to Sen. Legarda, that's the only time I realized I was going to be released," she said.

De la Cruz, who was working for the Iglesia ni Cristo-owned Net 25 cable

KIDNAPPED/ A20



"A TREE that looks at God all day" hosts warriors, American and Filipino troops, who take a break from their tactical assault operations during Balikatan 02-2 in the Marine base in Ternate, Cavite on Saturday, for refuge from the tropical sun and for the poetry of an ancient mango tree. DENNIS SABANGAN

Fields of dreams for GIs

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—"It's party time!" a disc jockey yelled.

And indeed it is on Fields Avenue, the living legacy of the extinct US military base at Clark, where young American servicemen participating in the RP-US Balikatan 02-2 are

FIELDS/ A21

Terrorism, not China, target of US military presence—Myers

THE TARGET of the United States' intensified military presence in Asia is terrorism, not China, according to the US military chief.

Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, made this clarification yesterday in the wake of suggestions that Washington could be using the global war on terror to spread its forces in Asia and increase its influence in a region that is coming under China's shadow.

Myers, who is in the country as part of a three-nation swing in Asia, also told reporters the United States did not intend to set up a permanent military base in the Philippines "for the war on terror or for any other reason."

The Texas-based think-tank Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor) had said the United States may be literally paving the way for a forward military base with the construction of roads and air strips in Basilan.

"This is not directed at China," Myers said. "The United States has a lot of interests in the

TERRORISM/ A20

CHAIRMAN of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers: No permanent base; only all-out support for training on the advice and consent of the Philippine government.

Freedom Force agenda includes Charter change

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE AMENDMENT of the 1987 Constitution is among the reforms that the so-called Freedom Force is thinking of pursuing, according to one of its movers, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

The former Tarlac congressman disclosed the position of Freedom Force on the matter when the INQUIRER asked him in an interview Tuesday if the group was against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Well, if there is one thing that was also discussed (in our meetings), it is Charter change," said Cojuangco, who added that he called for the amendment of the Constitution as early as 1991 when he delivered a speech in the House of Representatives.

The Charter that Cojuangco wishes to change is the one put in place during the term of his sister, President Corazon Aquino.

Like his colleagues in the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), Cojuangco denied that Freedom Force was intended as a junta to replace the President.

He said that it was envisioned as a nationwide campaign for reforms, and that it was not against Ms Macapagal. But he added that because of "existing conditions," the country was ripe for takeover by "extremists."

Cojuangco said he was "not in favor of a presidential system that is too centralized." He expressed preference for a parliamentary system, incidentally the form of government favored by the

FREEDOM/ A20

'Warum?' Germans ask why after mass murder

ERFURT, Germany—An improvised sign posted at the Johann Gutenberg Gymnasium school summed up what this eastern medieval town yesterday struggled to understand: "*Warum* (Why)?"

Why did 19-year-old Robert Steinhaeuser arm himself with a pump-action shotgun and handgun just before noon on Friday, go to the school where he had been expelled, and shoot dead 13 teachers, two students, a police officer and then himself?

Yesterday, the town was still in a state of deep shock.

It was Germany's worst murder spree in post-war history. The nation's only comparable violence since World War II was a terrorist attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, in which 17 died.

"I thought, 'This must be a bad film.' I thought this kind of thing only happened in America," said Thomas Rethfeldt, 18, whose teacher was shot in the head as she opened the door at the start of the shooting.

More than 1,000 people attended somber church ceremonies on a rainy Friday evening, searching for answers amid the carnage that has made this sleepy town (population: 197,000) 320 km south of Berlin the scene of one of the worst school slayings.

Tears filled the eyes of grief-stricken people attending church services. Many lit candles for the dead as bells rang out.

Hundreds of flowers placed by mourners were placed in front of police barricades in front of the school building and the town hall.

Flags flew at half-staff throughout the country on Saturday, and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's party canceled an election rally.

"It is the darkest day in history for our town," Mayor Manfred Ruge told German television. "We all wish we could somehow turn back the clock."

Police said Steinhaeuser went to school around 11 a.m. (5 p.m. Friday

'WARUM?'/ A21

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Second FRONT PAGE

TERROR IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Bush condoles; another bomb found

BUSH

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush called President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday to express his condolences after a rash of bomb attacks killed 15 people in General Santos City last week, Agence France Presse quoted the White House.

"The President (Bush) called President Macapagal-Arroyo to express his deepest condolences about the recent attacks in the Philippines," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

"He reiterated our unity to stand together in the war against terrorism and praised her for the resolve she has shown in fighting terrorism," Fleischer added.

A day after Bush's call, however, another bomb was found in General Santos City, the Associated Press reported.

The bomb was discovered at around 6 a.m. in the public market, said Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief.

Baluyot said it was made of explosive powder taken from a mortar shell and bits of iron and lead that served as shrapnel.

Three blasts last Sunday in General Santos killed 15 persons and wounded 71 others. The following day, police arrested two suspects who reportedly warned that more bombs had been planted around the country, including Metro Manila, as part of a destabilization plot against the government.

Three more suspects were arrested Tuesday in a pre-dawn raid outside General Santos that also yielded two bombs, four 60-mm mortar cannons, two grenades and bomb-making materials.

Also found were documents from two Muslim separatist groups and the New People's Army that police said indicated collusion among disgruntled former members of the three rebel organizations.

Baluyot said all five men have been charged with multiple counts of murder.

The latest explosive to be found was detonated by members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Bomb experts said the explosive was actually an M-K2 fragmentation grenade whose pin had been removed. The only thing holding the safety lever in place was the dirty rag wrapped around it, they said.

Butcher Dalid Nabales found the explosive in the meat section when he tugged at the rag.

"I was picking up the dirty towel to wipe the dirt and blood off my hands, but I felt a hard and heavy object inside," Nabales told the INQUIRER.

The butcher took the object and unwrapped it. "It's a bomb," he exclaimed, sending market goers and vendors into a panic.

Muslim leaders, meanwhile, have condemned the series of bombings in General Santos.

About 67 Muslim leaders met in the beleaguered city and came up with a manifesto denouncing terrorism.

"We abhor the use of terror, the killing of innocent civilians and the wanton disregard of human lives and property by the perpetrators of these attacks," the manifesto said.

In a late breaking development, three persons were wounded when a fragmentation grenade exploded in Carmen Valley, Barangay Pasonanca in Zamboanga City at about 7:30 last night.

Chief Insp. Jose Bayani Gusela, chief of the Zamboanga City Intelligence Unit, identified the victims as Cecile Espiritu, Allan Alejandro and Jungjung Araneta. Araneta suffered serious injuries.

Police ruled out terrorism in the explosion.

Gusela said it was a result of a feud between two rival government groups that he refused to identify. ***AFP, AP, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Anthony S. Allada and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ERRATUM

The **LG Aircon Specialist** advertorial, which appeared on page H3 of the **April 26, 2002 Home Appliances Supplement** of the Inquirer, contained pictures that were not representative of the LG Aircon brand.

We apologize for the error.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Philippine Judicial Academy

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Academic Council of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) announces the holding of the 4th Pre-Judicature Program in Cebu City, for lawyers who aspire for appointment as judges for the first-level courts, courts of general jurisdiction, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, or as justices of the Court of Appeals in compliance with Sec. 10 of R.A. No. 8557.

The program shall consist twenty-three (23) days, excluding Sundays and holidays, but including Saturdays, all of which must be completely attended and participation, at which, should be to the satisfaction of the Academy. The program shall run from May 20 to June 15, 2002.

The interview results shall determine eligibility of the participants and will form part of the final grade. A Written Evaluative Exercise (Comprehensive Examination) is part of the course.

Interested parties may make their reservations at PHILJA through Telefax Nos. 523-9075; 525-8939 addressed to Judge Priscila S. Agana, Executive Secretary; or at Telephone No. 522-3249, not later than May 3, 2002. Registration Forms and Personal Data Sheet can be downloaded from the PHILJA link at www.supremecourt.gov.ph.

The Academic Officials will be in Cebu City on May 9-10, 2002 to conduct the preliminary interview and screening for qualified applicants for the program, on which occasion, the required payment must also be made.

The Pre-Judicature Program is an accredited Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) course.

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RP hopes to tap 331 billion barrels of oil

By Christine Herrera

THE PHILIPPINES is looking to tap an estimated six billion barrels of oil deposits or its natural gas equivalent under the Spratly Islands and 225 billion barrels of oil under the South China Sea.

For this reason, the Department of Foreign Affairs is set to petition the United Nations Commission on Limits of the Continental Shelf to extend the Philippines' continental shelf from 200 to 350 nautical miles to allow the country to exploit the rich offshore oil deposits, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Merlin Magallona said.

Magallona, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law specializing in international law, said the rich resources are known to be in the continental shelf.

Magallona, along with experts from the Bureau of Mines and Geological Sciences and the UP Institute of Legal Studies, presented the proposal on Wednesday to the Senate committee on economic affairs headed by Sen. Robert Jaworski.

The DFA official said the UN Commission was still accepting requests for extension of a country's continental shelf.

"The deadline for submission of claims applications was supposed to be in 2004 but since the proposal needed very thorough geological studies, the deadline was extended to 2008," he said.

Magallona cited surveys made by foreign experts showing the probability of mineral resources lying in the subsoil and ocean floor of the continental shelf.

He said a 1994 survey made by the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory and the German Geological Survey showed that the South China Sea holds a potential 225 billion barrels of oil.

In 1995, he said, the Research Institute of Geology of Foreign Countries in Russia estimated that the Spratly area "could have up to six billion barrels of oil deposits or its equivalent, of which 70 percent would be natural gas."

"Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the continental shelf comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas throughout the natural prolongation of a country's land and territory to the outer edge of the continental margin or a distance of 200 nautical miles," Magallona said.

However, he said, as a "geomorphological formation," the continental shelf may be extended beyond the legal limit of 200 nautical miles to a distance of 350 nautical miles.

"In which case, the UNCLOS allows the Philippines under certain conditions to extend its continental shelf to a breadth of 350 nautical miles from the baseline," Magallona said.

Hear us out first, Jancom begs GMA

By Alcuin Papa

GARBAGE contractor Jancom Environmental Corp. has asked the President to hear its side on the controversial $350-million disposal contract it has with the government, before she makes a final decision on the matter.

"We appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow Jancom to present the facts and correct the unfair criticism, deliberate distortions and biased and unfounded accusations against our waste management contract before she renders an official decision," the company said in a faxed statement to media.

The President reiterated her opposition to the Jancom contract the other day when she addressed the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal said the money would be better spent on an information drive on garbage segregation that on Jancom's incineration project that is banned under the Clean Air Act.

"Rather than pay for a contract that's flawed, let us use the money for a massive information campaign on garbage segregation," the President had said.

In its statement, Jancom said it was ready to set aside the incineration component of its integrated waste management system and set up the two other components of the project, namely, three transfer stations and a modern sanitary landfill.

Jancom said the waste management system it was proposing was the same one being used by other more modern cities.

The company said even the most "systematic and efficient" segregation of garbage at its source could not reduce garbage by more than 20 percent.

"The balance of 80 percent still ends up in landfills or incinerators. The government must adopt today's most widely accepted technology to make Metro Manila and other urban centers clean and sanitary," Jancom said.

Environmental and non-governmental organizations had objected to the Jancom contract, saying the deal was tainted with anomalies and it was overpriced by P390 billion. It would also violate provisions of the recently passed Clean Air Act.

In its statement, Jancom said the project would only cost $350 million and every household in Metro Manila would only have to pay P122 a month to have their garbage collected.

Protesting organizations insisted the monthly charge would amount to P800, including other fees stipulated in the contract.

Stamp out corruption, Guingona urges grads

VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. exhorted the new graduates of the Ateneo Law School to mount a sustained offensive against graft and corruption.

Addressing the commencement exercises last week at the Meralco Auditorium in Pasig City, Guingona told the graduates to fight against the age-old twin maladies before they overwhelmed our nation.

"One of the vilest challenges that awaits you, corruption, retards our growth, debases the nation and distorts the future," Guingona said.

"Let your graduation be meaningful. Who better than you—graduates of the Ateneo Law School—are more empowered in mind and spirit to face an evil adversary," he said.

Guingona noted that one of the factors that abets corruption is the low salaries of government employees, including law enforcers and members of the judiciary.

A policeman gets P7,164 a month, a soldier P5,775, a public attorney P15,841, while the threshold of poverty is P9,000 a month, he pointed out.

Until the wages of these government employees are raised, we would not succeed against graft and corruption, he said.

He said the judiciary also needs to be reformed.

"Let the axe fall on guilty judges. Let the public prosecutors who betray their clients be dismissed. Let those who unduly delay justice suffer the proper penalties," he said.

Guingona said the main element in any reform is the entry of young upright men and women into public service, especially the judiciary.

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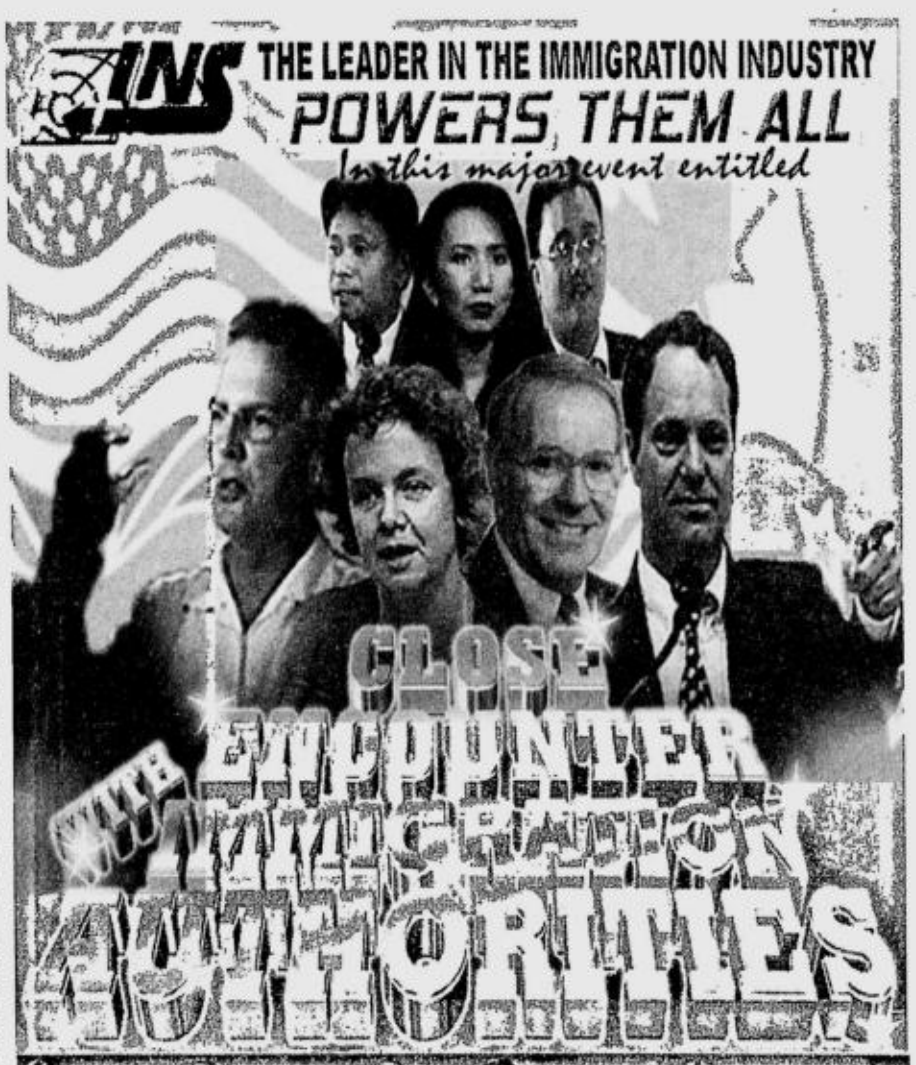
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Local Church sets protocol on priests' conduct

THE SEXUAL and criminal imbroglio engulfing Catholic priests in the West could soon erupt on local shores.

In an interview, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Secretary General Msgr. Hernando Coronel asked Filipino Catholics to help expose erring priests.

Coronel said the local church hierarchy is drafting a protocol on the problems of "sexual misconduct" by Filipino priests, who are known to take wives or mistresses rather than engage in pedophilia.

"People who have complaints should contact their superiors to give due process to the priests," Coronel told the INQUIRER.

He said that although it was not a crime for a priest to live with a woman or have children, this certainly violated church law.

"Under our law, if a priest attempts civil marriage—just attempts—or if he breaks the vow of celibacy, he would immediately be ex-communicated," Coronel said.

He said the local church has already encountered such cases and ex-communication of the guilty priests had been swift.

He said the local church is closely watching developments in the US to help in its formulation of the local protocol on erring priests.

He said the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on the Clergy is preparing the protocol's draft which, among other things, will call on the Church to openly admit the misconduct of its priests and to act on the problem. ***Armand Nocum***

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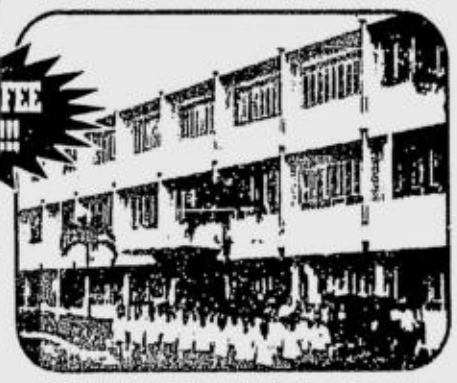

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The opening of FFI's newest branch reflects stability, growth and expansion for this young pre-need company. A sign of financial health and prosperity, expansion always brings forth with it more challenges and opportunities for further growth that will benefit not only Family First but the whole industry as well.

Over and above this, however, the opening of Family First's SM Southmall branch would mean that financial services designed to provide a more secure future for Filipino families will be made available, accessible and affordable to a greater number of our people. This is the ultimate contribution that Berkley and Family First would give towards nation-building.

More power to Berkley and Family First!

Mabuhay!

LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED PLAN COMPANIES, INC.

In behalf of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies, I congratulate Berkley International Plans, Inc. and Family First, Inc. on the opening of their newest branch in SM Southmall, Las Piñas City.

The success of any industry player is always looked at with admiration and respect because we consider the success of one as the success of all.

With this, we salute Berkley for its accomplishments in the five years that it has been in operation. The company's determined rise to become among the top Industry Players has infused the industry with excitement and energy and has pushed other pre-need companies to move towards greater achievement. Indeed, healthy competition breeds synergy that, in turn, gives birth to innovations that respond to the public's changing needs.

The Federation is working hard to ensure that the industry will not only survive economic challenges but will also play a pro-active role in charting the fate of our nation with respect to medium and long term capital formation. The task is gargantuan but with the support of the Federation Board and its dynamic members like Berkley International Plans, the Federation is almost certain of achieving its ambitious goal.

Again, our heartfelt congratulations!

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL MADRIGAL VAZQUEZ
President

Marketing Innovator Opens Branch in SM Southmall

Family First, Inc. (FFI), largely acknowledged as a marketing innovator in the pre-need industry, goes into full-gear expansion as it opened recently its newest sales office located in SM Southmall, Las Piñas City.

No less than Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairperson, Atty. Lilia R. Bautista, served as Guest of Honor at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies held last 7 March 2002.

Established in 1997, FFI is credited with catapulting Berkley International Plans (BIP), whose products it distributes, to its present position as #3 in the educational plan sector and #5 overall in the pre-need industry in terms of new business. Considering that it was behind the pack at # 87 when it entered the market almost five years ago, the feat is nothing short of amazing.

SEC Chair is Guest of Honor. Atty. Lilia R. Bautista (3rd from left), Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Commission, led the ribbon-cutting ceremonies with (from left) Felipe R. Diego, Ms. Marissa Diego and FFI General Manager Robb S. Paulsen.

The company now has 4 branches located in SM Megamall, The Enterprise Center in Makati, Festival Supermall in Alabang and SM Southmall in Las Piñas City.

SOLID, STRONG & SUPERIOR

Not many companies today can boast of financial backing as solid, strong and superior as Family First's.

Family First is a subsidiary of Berkley International Philippines, Inc. which, in turn, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkley International LLC, a joint venture between two life and property casualty insurance giants in the United States — W.R. Berkley Corporation and Northwestern Mutual.

So while Family First may be considered as a young industry player, having been operational in the country for only five years, its corporate roots are certainly nothing to scoff at.

With its solid financial back-up, Family First at once focused its energies on expanding its market base. Efforts have paid off as evidenced by the latest SEC 2001 Educational Plan records which again placed BIP among the top. Clinching the third spot with P2.17 billion in the value of its contracts, it has cornered a market share of 14.61%.

INNOVATIVE & NON-TRADITIONAL

Much of the company's success is attributed to Family First's innovative marketing strategy. Bringing people to the product instead of the other way around, the company largely controls the selling situation. This benefits the client first and foremost because, from the moment he decides to buy, the client directly deals and transacts with the company.

The client will not have to worry, therefore, that at one point in time, the agent to which he was regularly paying could just all so suddenly disappear with all his money and his plan down the drain — a horror tale commonly heard of in many traditional agency set-ups.

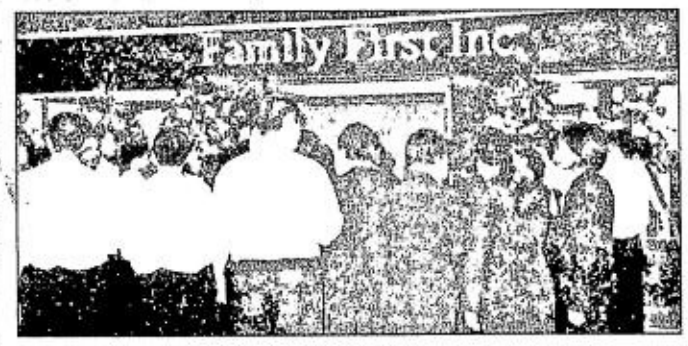
NO STRINGS ATTACHED

The company shuns heavy advertising in favor of giving guaranteed prizes to its customers. Aside from pillows, mugs, duffle bags, wall clocks, umbrellas and others, clients get the chance to win a house and lot or a brand new car. "It is our way of thanking the customers directly for the time they invest in order to listen to a sales presentation. All they have to do is listen. There is absolutely no obligation to buy," FFI President Felipe R. Diego emphasizes.

ABOVE-AVERAGE RATING

Berkley recently received the first-ever corporate credit rating for a pre-need company given by PhilRatings, an affiliate of world-renowned Standard and Poor's. Rated with a PRS A+, the company was found to have an "above-average capacity to meet its financial commitments" compared with other Philippine corporations.

The rating could not have come at a more auspicious time for Family First which, together with Berkley International Plans, is set to mark its 5th Anniversary this year.



SM Southmall (above) serves as home to the newest branch of Family First, Inc. (left). **SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista** (bottom, right) is all ears to Felipe R. Diego at the inauguration ceremonies.

Family First and Customer Delight

There is a closing of ranks ongoing at Family First, Inc.

While it is true that customer satisfaction has become a standard goal of any company worth its salt these days, Family First has embarked on a corporate-wide program to ensure that the said goal is pursued relentlessly at all levels of the organization.

Diego

Berkley International Philippines and FFI President Felipe R. Diego says, "Customer Delight is a corporate mission for all of us. We are here to serve Filipino families and we are going to do so by giving them the excellent service that they deserve."

Cliché as it may sound, Diego says that no stone is left unturned to guarantee that Family First customers are smiling and happy. "The first step to improving service is to recognize that it is far from perfect. This we did with an open mind. While there is still a lot of room for improvements, the company has made tremendous strides in this area," Diego added.

Indeed, after weathering the storm of controversy once, Family First has set its sights more clearly on its goals. Diego emphasizes, "We have institutionalized a Customer Service Department to make sure that complaints are looked into and properly addressed. They are, after all, just another step to achieving Customer Delight."

FAST FACTS

10 Questions You May Have Always Wanted To Ask About Family First, Inc.

1. What is Family First, Inc.? Family First is a marketing company that sells and promotes the pre-need and/or educational plans of Berkley International Plans (BIP).

2. Is Family First a registered company? Family First is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a broker of pre-need plans. It was incorporated on October 30, 1997, as per SEC Registration No. A1997-20113.

3. How financially strong is Family First? To give you an idea of its financial backing, Family First is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkley International Philippines which, in turn, is 100% owned by Berkley International, LLC, a joint venture by two insurance giants in the US with a committed capitalization of U$100 MILLION. At the time of writing (April 15, 2002) when exchange rate stands at P51.020 to U$1, this amount is equivalent to more than 5 BILLION PESOS.

4. How can Family First afford such fabulous prizes for its promos like a brand new car or a house and lot? Rather than go into heavy advertising which is more costly anyway, Family First believes it is better if it will just channel its big advertising budget into prizes that directly reward customers for the time they devote in listening to a sales presentation by the company. These "thank you" gifts come in the form of guaranteed small items and major prizes like a Ford Expedition, a Nissan Terrano or a house and lot.

5. Are there real winners for Family First's raffles and promotions? All raffles and promotions of Family First are approved and supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) so the Department itself can vouch that these winners are real and documented. A list of winners and their prizes is available from Family First's Customer Service Department and website (www.familyfirst.com) for any who is curious.

6. How is Family First's marketing strategy different from the traditional system that employs agents? Admittedly a complete deviation from the usual marketing strategy where an agent visits houses and offices to do a sales presentation, Family First employs people who approach or call individuals to invite them for a presentation. Once the invitation is accepted, sales consultants who, likewise, are directly employed by the company, get their turn to present to these prospects the merits of the product right inside the company's sales office.

7. How sure are we that Family First can meet its obligations? Aside from its solid financial backing, Berkley International Plans — whose products Family First markets — was given a PRS Aplus rating by the Philippine Rating Services Corporation, attesting to its above-average capacity to meet its financial commitments in the future compared with other Philippine corporations. The company further invests all its earnings in a Trust Fund, which is guaranteed by the Philippine Government, further assuring the public that it could fulfill its promises to them.

8. Who manages Family First? Filipino managers with proven expertise in their respective fields are at the helm of the Philippine operations. They are led by FFI President Felipe R. Diego who is a respected figure in the pre-need and insurance sectors.

9. How big is the company in terms of manpower and offices? The Philippine Berkley operations — which include Berkley International Plans, Berkley International Life and Family First, Inc. — employ 600 people. Family First now has 4 branches located in SM Megamall, Enterprise Center in Makati, Festival Supermall in Alabang and SM Southmall in Las Piñas City.

10. How is the company faring in the industry? Family First is credited with catapulting Berkley International Plans to its present position as #3 in the educational plan sector and #5 overall in the pre-need industry in terms of new business, based on the latest records from SEC.

BERKLEY INTERNATIONAL PLANS, INC.

Family First Inc.
www.myfamilyfirst.com

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Lao premier here for 3-day visit

LAO Prime Minister Boun-nhang Vorachith arrives today for a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties with the Philippines, a fellow Asean member.

It will be Vorachith's first official visit to the country.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. was a recent visitor to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

A former minister of finance, governor and mayor of Vientiane, Vorachith is credited with significantly improving Laos' economy and security situation since assuming the post last year.

The prime minister will be accompanied by his wife, Madame Khammeung Vorachith, and key officials of his government.

He is scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo tomorrow. He will also be meeting with top congressional leaders and other government officials.

NORTH KOREAN DEFECTORS

Only 1 allowed to transit Manila

ONLY one of three North Koreans who defected in China last week has been cleared to transit through Manila en route to a third country, the foreign affairs department said yesterday."Only one fellow is cleared to come in," department spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said, referring to the asylum-seeker who entered the German Embassy in Beijing on Friday.

The man, Hae Jon, 23, arrived in Manila at 8:30 last night.

Two other North Korean defectors entered the US Embassy in Beijing and have since been flown to Singapore on their way to a third country, with officials in Bejing saying they had also been cleared to transit through Manila.

Lecaros said the first defector "is just going to change planes in Manila," and that "it is the Chinese who are arranging the flight."

"Our condition is he be flown out on the first available flight," Lecaros said.

Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said the German government had asked the Philippines to allow the man to transit through the country and the government had agreed.

He said he had no details on when the North Korean was coming but reports from Beijing said the man would probably leave Beijing later yesterday.

Officials said they were not aware of any request from the United States government for the Philippines to allow transit for two other North Koreans who had sought asylum at the US Embassy in Beijing.

Two other groups of North Koreans who defected in China used the Philippines as a transit point over the past year, including seven who sought refuge inside a United Nations agency in Beijing last June and 25 others who entered the Spanish Embassy in February.

The government has said it is providing transit on humanitarian grounds. ***AFP and Reuters***

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Review of convictions for rape—In reviewing convictions for rape, the Court is guided by the following principles: (a) an accusation of rape can be made with facility and while the accusation is difficult to prove, it is even more difficult for the person accused, although innocent, to disprove; (b) considering the intrinsic nature of the crime, only two persons being usually involved, the testimony of the complainant should be scrutinized with great caution; and (c) the evidence for the prosecution must stand or fall on its own merit, and cannot be allowed to draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the defense. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Villaruel, G. R. Nos. 133741-42, October 26, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Consumer groups set April 29 protest blackout vs Meralco

By R. Domingo

THE PEOPLE Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) will hold a 15-minute "protest blackout" tomorrow to dramatize its opposition to the Manila Electric Co.'s plan to raise electricity rates by 55 centavos per kilowatt hour.

Power spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said hundreds of vendors at the Trabajo public market and residents of Manila's Sampaloc district would voluntarily stop using electricity at about 9 to 9:15 p.m. tomorrow.

"This is just the opening salvo that we hope will build support for a wider protest movement against Meralco's plans," said Reyes.

Power, which was formed early this week and which counts some 12 consumer and civil society under its umbrella, calls itself "the biggest consumer coalition in recent memory."

Power expects the blackouts to eat into the revenues of the power distribution giant, especially when the protest gathers momentum.

"Just how much the effect is would be the subject of our studies in the next few days," said Reyes, who is also spokesperson for the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

The Bayan-led Power lists 18 groups as its members, including the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms and the Meralco Employees and Workers Association.

Reyes said that Power was also starting another campaign calling on Meralco customers not to pay the purchased power adjustment, which makes up about half of their monthly bills.

The PPA pertains to the cost of the power that Meralco buys from generating entities like the National Power Corp. and First Gas Power Corp.

Meralco passes this cost on to its customers.

"We are now reproducing rubber stamps that say 'paid under protest' to mark our Meralco bills when we pay them," Reyes said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran kicked off the Power protest action by paying only the basic charge of his electricity bill last week.

Ex-mayor gets 40 years for 1991 killing

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA court yesterday sentenced up to 40 years in jail a former Batangas mayor found guilty of masterminding the murder of a "hitman" who disobeyed his order to kill a businessman 11 years ago.

Aside from Joven de Grano, the ex-mayor of Laurel town, the court also sentenced to reclusion perpetua De Grano's brother, Armando, and his bodyguards, Domingo Landicho and Estanislao Lacaba.

The five were also ordered to pay P50,000 as indemnity to the heirs of Emmanuel Mendoza, 55, who was shot to death on April 21, 1991.

Two other aides of the ex-mayor, Leonardo Genil and Leonides Landicho, were also charged but have remained at large.

Judge Teresa Soriaso said the defense failed to destroy the credibility of the sole eyewitness, Mendoza's common-law wife, Teresita Duran.

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OPINION

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Priests and sex

EDITORIALS

LIKE corporate profit warnings and diplomatic communiqués, papal statements are parsed for subtle changes in subject or tone. Even the most casual observer, however, would have noticed the unprecedented candor in Pope John Paul II's remarks last Tuesday on the sexual abuse scandal roiling the Catholic Church in the United States.

In particular, worldwide attention has centered on two categorical statements. "The abuse which has caused this crisis is by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God," the Pope said at the start of a two-day meeting of American cardinals and bishops in the Vatican. And again: "People need to know that there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young."

The forthright declarations, and the Pope's support for the one-strike-you're-out policy proposed by some bishops, have drawn international praise. But by the same token, they have also raised expectations, especially in the United States, that the American bishops would return home with equally categorical rules to handle sexual abuse cases.

That has not been the case. The difference between the US bishops' statement and that of the Pope is instructive for other episcopal conferences, including that of the Philippines.

The Vatican meeting—which contrary to public perception was not initiated by the Holy See but requested by the American bishops—was meant to set a general direction. (Indeed, part of its purpose was to dispel the sense of utter lack of direction that seemed to have overwhelmed the US Church.) The details, however, needed to be worked out on the bishops' level.

At this lower level, the force of particular circumstances is greater. A new priest who commits an act of sexual abuse should be removed; on this point there is no dispute. But what about someone who committed such an act many years ago and has since led a totally reformed life? Questions such as this dulled the edge of the American bishops' own statement.

The US legal system's tradition of awarding enormous damages in civil suits was another dulling factor. "Claims of sexual misconduct by priests are certainly not unheard of in Europe," a Cornell law professor told the New York Times. "But one might expect a larger number in the United States because of the influence of larger likely recoveries." This prospect must have prompted the US bishops to temper their statement with ambiguously worded admissions.

Lastly, an increasingly secular American culture has led to expectations of change that will never come to pass, because they run counter to central tenets of the Catholic faith. For instance: Many Americans want erring priests fired, but an erring priest is not an abusive cop or a negligent fireman. Even when he is removed, he remains a priest. That is the nature of the priesthood. The US statement recognized this essential nuance, but, as could have been predicted, it displeased many who wanted rules in black and white.

Non-issue

MANY people, eminent Catholic priests among them, have seen in the sexual abuse scandal a reason—or an excuse, depending on one's point of view—for raising the issue of celibacy. The Church, they argue, should relax its rules on allowing priests to marry, or retire the celibacy requirement altogether.

We can understand the Gordian-knot appeal of such a radical proposal, but we fail to see what it has to do with the sex scandal in the first place.

The Church's own teachings on the making of decisions (what it calls the discernment of spirits) suggest that choices forged in the depths of a crisis may not stand scrutiny in the clear light of day. Better to wait until heads have cooled, and the television cameras waiting outside have been taken away.

But questions of timing aside, celibacy is a non-issue. The assumption behind the proposal to waive the celibacy requirement is that pedophilia is a mere substitution problem. Because a priest does not have a spouse, he satisfies his sexual urges on children. Phrased this way, anyone can see that it simply isn't so. Pedophilia is a psychological and sexual aberration; it isn't solved simply by providing the pedophile with an alternative outlet for sexual release.

Those who propose this solution not only devalue that condition of life in which one is married to one's vocation—that is, celibacy itself. They also devalue the sacrament of marriage, because they view it through utilitarian eyes.

Laurel v. Desierto

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE THIRD Division of the Supreme Court recently held that former Vice President Salvador H. Laurel was a public officer when he served as chair of the National Centennial Commission. Its reason is that the NCC was a public office and its head was therefore a public officer subject to the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

Reacting to the decision, Laurel argues that it misappreciated the nature of the office he held. He intends to file a motion for reconsideration and ask that the case be elevated to the Supreme Court *en banc*.

By its own rule, a decision of any of its three divisions is a decision of the whole court and is therefore not appealable to the *banc*. The rule, however, may be relaxed, as in the case of Imelda Marcos. Her conviction for graft having been affirmed by the First Division (also) of the Supreme Court, she moved to refer the case to the *banc*. The Court, disregarding its own rule, graciously agreed. (To nobody's surprise, the *banc* reversed the Sandiganbayan and its own Third Division and exonerated her.)

That case is here recalled not to question her acquittal but to stress that the appeal of a Division case to the Court *en banc* is not absolutely prohibited. The Supreme Court may in its discretion relax the procedural rule in exceptional cases. The Laurel petition is one such case because it involves not only the innocence or guilt of an accused but the more important legal issue of the nature of a public office.

The *ponencia* stresses that the NCC was a public office because it was involved in the exercise of executive functions. The implication is that everyone who appoints personnel, adopts and implements policies, approves projects, and controls subordinates, is a public officer. Curiously, these are the usual functions of the CEO or the president of a private corporation engaged in proprietary activities. Do they, by performing these *executive* functions, become public officers?

The decision apparently considers all executive functions to be exclusively sovereign in character. That seems to be a narrow interpretation of the term. Legislative and judicial functions relate to governmental activities and are necessarily sovereign in nature. But executive functions are not performed exclusively by public officers but may partake of a proprietary character when discharged by private entities.

Even if created by law and controlled by the government, an entity may not be considered a public office if its functions are not sovereign but merely proprietary. In Torio v. Fontanilla, 85 SCRA 599, the Supreme Court held that the celebration of a town fiesta was a proprietary and not a sovereign function of a municipality. The NCC was involved also in the celebration of a national fiesta, and was similarly acting in a proprietary and not a public capacity.

The decision takes pains to argue that the Torio doctrine is not applicable because it dealt only with a local event while the NCC commemorated a national event. The celebration of a town fiesta, it says, is not for the general welfare. I have always been of the impression that every act of a municipal corporation, whether governmental or proprietary, must be for the general welfare. The General Welfare Clause applies to municipal corporations, not to the national government.

One important argument the Third Division did not address was the undeniable fact that all three departments of the government, including the Supreme Court itself, designated some of its members to sit in various capacities in the NCC. The record shows that the Executive Department was represented in the NCC by 11 Cabinet members, Congress by two senators and two representatives, and the Supreme Court itself by two associate justices. (Footnote 2, Decision)

Art. VI, Sec. 13 of the Constitution provides that no member of Congress may hold any other office or employment in the government or any of its instrumentalities without forfeiting his seat. Art. VII, Sec. 13 prohibits the members of the Cabinet, among others, from holding any other government position during their tenure. Art. VIII, Sec. 12, clearly states that the members of the Judiciary "shall not be designated to any agency performing quasi-judicial or administrative functions."

The offices referred to in these provisions are public offices performing sovereign functions. Mindful of the constitutional inhibitions, the President of the Philippines, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and especially the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court nevertheless allowed their respective representatives to sit in the NCC. These responsible officials would not have done so if they believed that the NCC was a public office barred to the members of their respective branches.

I hope the Laurel case will be elevated to the Supreme Court *en banc* like the Imelda case. If I may be so bold, I respectfully suggest that Laurel's motion for reconsideration be not treated with the usual minute resolution summarily denying a pleading on the peremptory ground that "no substantial arguments have been raised." This case clearly deserves answers, not another judicial evasion.

Grace and Joy

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I HAVE a confession to make. I have two life-companions. Grace has always been with me all these years. Grace has sustained me through my most difficult times. Grace stayed with me especially when I lost my passport, plane tickets and mission cross at the Barcelona Airport last April 16. I literally had lost everything, except grace, which sustained me. Through it all, I was composed, I was calm, I was hopeful. Grace under pressure. *'Yun pala 'yon.*

Joy is another companion in my life. Joy has always been such a source of comfort and consolation for me.

Thank God for grace and joy, my two companions in life.

* * *

How consoling are the Words of Jesus in today's Gospel (Jn.14,1-12): "Do not let your hearts be troubled." It is so easy to forget these words especially when we go through rough seas. The truth is that we do not, we cannot, immediately focus on God and His words when we are in the middle of a storm. Our first instinct is to survive or go beyond the ordeal before us. Almost on hindsight, we remember God, and then we put Him in the picture. Soon after, we see His picture, the big picture!

Do you have any problem before you right now? How long has it been burdening you already? Put God in the picture, and immediately you will see the Big Picture, and realize that your problem is just a speck in the Big Picture. If you worry, you magnify your problem. If you trust in God, you will end up magnifying Him!

* * *

I can't help but go back to my Barcelona experience where God showed me the way through German national Gerhard Pitters. Gerhard went out of his way to show me the way out through immigration so that I could come home. Not only did he show me the way, he also showed me the Father. In Gerhard, I experienced God's love and concern.

Gerhard was not even religious. I did not even get to know his faith or his religion. All I know is that he was a good man who showed concern to a foreigner who had lost his passport and all.

Come to think of it, we do not need to label human goodness. Goodness—be it your goodness, or my goodness—is goodness. Whatever the religion, whatever the form, whatever the nationality, goodness is in the end, Godness.

There was this text message that hit me last week: "If you were accused of being a follower of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Would there be enough words and deeds I did for Christ to really make me worthy of the name Christian? What do we talk about most of the time? We do a lot and talk a lot about business. How about our Father's business?

* * *

"Worry not about the branches swaying in the wind as long as the trunk is firm," says a Chinese proverb. As we go on in life, we will encounter problems so strong, external and internal, that we panic and lose sight of our blessings. It is in such times that we need to calm down and draw from our inner strength and blessings. It is in such times when grace and joy will uplift us. And where do we get grace and joy? God is grace and joy, and he who abides in God is never wanting of grace and joy.

* * *

And yet, there are people who claim to have God but exude not grace and joy. I remember one time, at breakfast with some sisters, before I could even sit down, the mother superior started her monologue about the scarcity of vocations in their congregation, the materialism of our modern world, the lack of faith of people, etc. etc. I did not have a chance to say a word as she babbled on and on. Deep inside me I was saying, "Sister, just looking at your face and just listening to you, I know why you don't have vocations!"

URGENTLY WANTED TODAY: Men and women who exude the Father's grace and joy. Want to become a member? Sign up by giving your signature smile right now. Good! Member *ka na*!

* * *

Recapture grace and joy. Look at a child today. How simple, how innocent, how joyful they are! That's you and me minus the worries, the tension, the guilt, the complications.

We can make it happen again. The secret of the child is that he knows how to trust. The problem with us adults is that we play god or even think we are gods.

* * *

God holds the world in His hands. Fine. The problem with us is that we often pray for what God holds in his hands, and not for what He holds in His heart.

* * *

Join us in our Walk with God to Manaoag this May 4. We start at 6 a.m. at the Urdaneta Church and do the three-and-a-half-hour walk (13 kilometers) with continuos praying of the rosary and confessions, ending with the 11 a.m. Mass at the Manaoag shrine. We dedicate this walk especially to the late councilor Sonny Sison who began it with us in 1989.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, come what may, let Your grace and joy accompany me. Amen

Earth Day delights

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

THE BRITISH poet T.S. Eliot once unintentionally described our last Earth Day celebration: "We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time."

It began on the eve—April 21, a Sunday. The sun had just transited from the zodiacal house of Aries to Taurus. The planets Mercury, Mars, Venus and the distant superstars Saturn and Jupiter had aligned in the adjacent zodiacal houses of Taurus, Gemini and Cancer, with a scene-stealing first quarter moon in the act. My astrologer friend agreed: the moment had promise.

It began for my granddaughter, her *yaya* and me in a hooky-playing mood en route to the Arroceros Mini-Forest Park. A network of ecologists had finished an interfaith ritual, Mass and an Earth Dance when we arrived, but no one accused us of tardiness. Planetary feasts have both time and timeless zones.

The point was to show up for a major anniversary: 30 years since a global movement was born when 20 million answered a call coast to coast in America to aid Earth's survival under destructive, profit-chasing waves of commerce and technology. "*Ay, avidya*, ignorance," budding scholars of religion in the 1970s called such major threats to life. Now, dapdaps afire, narras in yellow clouds of subtle fragrance, Earth Day was a homecoming to a Manila inching toward revival from ancient ideas made urgent and new.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. They now call it *tiangge*—that agora of clothes, symbols, art, food and drink laced with radical ideas that were all the rage in the 1970s, today's "civil society" chic. Its religious pluralism was the first dear echo to catch an old hippie's ear: Hare Krishna chanting as I discovered Shumei—a "Society of Divine Love" going beyond its Shinto roots toward "fellowship with the world community" in art and "natural agriculture."

More causes down the democratic garden path—one promoting commercial air and water filtration systems in a sick environment, another a "Philippine Climate Change Mitigation Program." Our government had gone for another carrot on USAID's stick: "global climate change patterns (with) the potential to offset our ecosystem." Knowing Washington's recidivism on the global Kyoto Protocol, however, I was not surprised to find only verbiage on "power management, clean fuels, energy policy reform and private sector capacity for improved energy development and management" there.

The next sight was more interesting: a garbology tent. In the hands of advocacy queen Odette Alcantara was a to-do manual from a forthcoming book titled "Doon Po Sa Amin." In the early 1980s, it was a play translated by Onofre Pagsanghan from Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." Today "Doon Po Sa Amin" is a precious catalogue on ecological waste management, for release in June—concept by chess player, humorist, art patron and collector Odette, now principal writer, partnered by former business editor Nilo Mulles.

Editor Monina Mercado, artist Manuel Baldemor, INQUIRER cartoonist Jess Abrera, photographers, graphic artists, freelance gurus have all been caught in her laughing, subversive crusade. Its goal: to raise consciousness beyond regular garbage collection, landfill and incinerator to the garbage of souls that must be thrown out before real change can begin.

Such is the counterculture. Life-changing always comes with refreshment—ice cream, tuna sandwiches, citronella essence, a tape of Hindu chants, a shirt sheer as summer, tinted blue-green like Pacific deeps. My 3-year-old was however too tired for a longer trip at sunset, toward the Pagasa Observatory at the UP for Green Philippines' overnight vigil.

Green Phil is composed of "deep ecologists" known for ambushing the ecologically challenged in the strangest ways and places. Under an auspicious sky, they "watch(ed) the stars like our ancestors." On the state university campus, however, tribal fire gave way to safer candles in colored paper frames, the central one marked with a quarter moon glowing in eerie beauty.

Inner fires meanwhile burned in a weave of music, mime, dance and poetry sans sound system "so as not to drown natural sounds." They had also refused to invite corporate sponsors for an event of obvious social value. Why? "Firms using non bio-degradable packaging, promoting consumerism and selling processed foods" have no commitment beyond Earth Day celebrations, said environmental lawyer Ma. Paz Luna.

"Corporations are the newest of Earth's creatures, fighting purely for profit and concentration of wealth. If they have a moral code, it's secondary to profit," she elaborated. "Compare that to human-scale systems where owners of business are also morally and socially responsible to their communities."

In these islands, some very bright young Filipinos continue to prefer the road less taken. There, unnamed forces equally part of the web of life are strangely responsive to undiluted vision. As a poet of the Luneta Freedom Collective writhed, repeatedly screaming *"Industriya at Kalikasan!"* a jet plane passed, amplifying the human scream against dark stillness. Many meteor showers later, as a recited oath of commitment to life and the Earth faded to silence at dawn, the UP Carillon chimed, a flock of wild geese flew directly overhead in glorious V-formation.

Yes, come to think of it, Mr. Eliot. Time painted in the colors of coincidence did inspire all that tie-dyeing, now back in fashion.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Presidential passion

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

MONTICELLO, VA.—This is not about Bill Clinton with the roving eye.

It's about something long past, long in the sense of two centuries, but remains in the here and now among the architecture, mulberry trees, fruit and vegetable gardens, the grove and the mountaintop of magical Monticello. And it involves Thomas Jefferson, the philosopher of the American Revolution, third president of the United States, probably the most intellectual and versatile of them all. After writing the Declaration of Independence, he spent the next 33 years in public service in a variety of positions, including delegate to the Virginia General Assembly and to Congress, governor of Virginia, ambassador to France, secretary of state (first one to occupy this position) and vice president (the second in US history) before becoming president.

Though his private persona was less known, he was equality distinguished and talented in several fields. He was once described in 1782 as a musician, draftsman, surveyor, astronomer, natural philosopher, jurist and statesman. His main passions were architecture and science, heavily influenced by the Enlightenment and the rich classical past of Greece and Rome. Reason and scientific inquiry became the hallmarks of his intellectual development.

So influenced was he by European architecture that he redesigned Monticello, which he started to build in 1768, after he returned from France in 1789. The remodeled plantation mansion was completed by the time Jefferson retired from public service in 1809, after his second term as president. He was to design the University of Virginia in Charlottesville as well, often using a telescope from Monticello to see how the construction of the university down the hill was going.

Two centuries later, historians have resurrected another presidential passion that had a more human dimension than the buildings, trees and bushes Jefferson nurtured in his retirement shangrila. And it involves one of his female slaves by the name of Sally Hemings. The academic debate is bound to linger and may never be put to rest. At best, the DNA testing done in 1998 and a subsequent review of the historical record only resulted in the "probability" that Jefferson fathered "at least one and perhaps all six of Sally Hemings' children listed in Jefferson's records."

But who was Sally Hemings? She was the youngest daughter of Elizabeth Hemings, a slave woman who came to Monticello as part of the inheritance of Jefferson's wife Martha, from her father John Wayles. Betty had 12 children and several grandchildren who occupied most of the important positions in the Monticello household.

Sally Hemings was 14 when she traveled with Jefferson to Paris as his younger daughter Mary's "lady-in-waiting." She was taught the skills of a "lady's maid," which included hairdressing, stitching decorative hems and laundering silk clothing. She became the personal servant not only to Mary but also to Jefferson's other daughter Martha and their families. And, of course, she had to serve the master, Jefferson, as well. Jefferson's marriage was brief, as his wife lived only 10 years.

When the family went back to America, tongues started to wag. Hemings became linked to Jefferson's name in 1802 when a newspaper in Richmond published a story that she was "Jefferson's mistress and had borne him a number of children." Probably the editor was a political opponent of Jefferson's. Who knows? It seems like character assassination on one level. As far as can be ascertained by researchers, Jefferson never made a public or private comment about the issue.

After Jefferson's death in 1826, his daughter Martha gave Hemings her "time," which was the term used for "informal emancipation." It was reported that Jefferson himself provided for the emancipation of all Hemings' children when they reached the age of 21. But again this became a bone of contention as they were the only Monticello slaves who spent their adult lives in freedom.

The descendants of Hemings over the years have decided to come out in public with their claim to the Jefferson name. They have been trying for years to gain official recognition that Jefferson, based on the DNA testing, was the father of some of Hemings' children. At least, the supposed heirs argue, a male in the Jefferson family fathered Hemings' last child, Eston.

The upshot of all these is that a family committee, called Families of Jefferson's Monticello, has been formed and is "open to anyone who could prove descent from one of the slaves or artisans who worked at the plantation during Jefferson's life."

This is a mighty undertaking. Monticello had more than 200 slaves and about 135 were owned by Jefferson. It will take years and more DNA testing to prove their descendants' legacy.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii in Manoa.

Surviving the 'starter marriage'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT has become so common that it has now acquired its own name. Statistics show that in the United States, half of all first marriages end in divorce. Thus the birth of the term "starter marriage." Like a "starter bra," the starter marriage is supposed to prepare one for the "real thing," giving one the feel of the experience before one is really ready for it, teaching lessons, jump-starting long-delayed initiations into maturity.

What are the hallmarks of a starter marriage? The principals are usually in their 20s or early 30s. It lasts just a short while, a year to three years, tops. There are usually no children, though sometimes the marriage may in fact have been occasioned by an unintended pregnancy.

When the starter marriage comes to an end, there seems to be little bad blood between former spouses. They walk away from it having learned important lessons about themselves, relationships and commitment. Lessons, it is implied, they are expected to apply in their second or subsequent relationships.

But if a man or a woman didn't feel all that ready for marriage, why enter into one at all? Why go through all the trouble of a starter marriage when one can simply wait, or live-in, learning the lessons without the expense of divorce, separation or a declaration of nullity?

Because, say the marital experts, people enter into matrimony sure they're in it for the long haul and confident of their skills and willingness to weather the demands of a long-term commitment. An article in the March issue of "O" magazine quotes a recent survey published by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. It said that Americans ages 20 to 29 are, in spite of the high divorce rate, more idealistic about marriage than ever.

* * *

BUT if young Americans of marriageable age are so hopeful about marriage, why has the starter marriage become such an institution?

The culprit, say the experts, is precisely the reason so many delude themselves into premature wedding vows—romance. "They're looking for a soul mate who can fulfill every need and bring them happiness—forever," writes Amy Hertz in "To Love, Honor, and Last Longer than a Year." Dr. Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-director of the Rutgers Marriage Project, writes Hertz, "is encouraged that young people want to stay married for life but worries that idealism is easily dashed. And when it is, this generation may end up in the same place their parents did: divorce court."

Ironically, notes another American professor, Dr. Paul Amato, who conducted a 20-year study on 2,000 subjects who started out married, "55 to 60 percent of divorcing couples discard unions with real potential." Says Amato: "It's important to recognize that many of these marriages would improve over time, and most of them could be strengthened through marital counseling and enrichment programs."

This then is the recipe for a short-lived starter marriage: romantic idealism coupled with unrealistic demands and expectations mixed in with pessimism and impatience about the chances of working out your differences. It takes work—and really hard work—to get over the bad bumps in a marriage, but it also takes time.

* * *

THE ANTIDOTE to the epidemic of starter marriages? The "good-enough marriage."

Couples, say the experts, should enter into marriage without the heavy baggage of romantic notions and dreams of constant togetherness and seamless compatibility. Even more important, they should jettison at the outset the ideal of the "perfect" marriage, of living with another person day in and day out without a single instance of conflict or irritation, boredom or restlessness.

The idea of a "good-enough marriage," writes Hertz, "relieves couples of the pressure to have a perfect union, and the inherent disappointments and difficulties may spur them to evolve as individuals." One strategy that may be necessary for the survival of a "good-enough marriage" could be to simply overlook "issues" that, irritating as they are, are not major enough to constitute grounds for annulment or parricide.

"If I had to process every single issue with my husband, if we had to resolve every difference, it would be like one long dental appointment. You've got to let stuff go," a friend married for 17 years tells Hertz. A study has in fact found that 69 percent of marital conflicts are not resolvable. "The couples that stay together allow differences and adapt to them."

* * *

RECENTLY, we had the wonderful privilege of taking part in the 25th wedding anniversary of our friends Noli and Peachy.

One of their guests, Peachy's best friend in high school, came bearing a very special gift: a package wrapped in silver that looked like a large shoebox. "Guess what this is?" said Peachy, laughing. The box contained all the love letters, notes, gifts and pictures that Noli had sent Peachy when they were still courting. Because her mother deemed her too young to have a boyfriend, Peachy would read each note and letter then turn it over to her friend Mano for safekeeping. Eventually, of course, Nanay got over her objections and the relationship went "aboveground." Maybe that's why even Noli and Peachy forgot all about the box in Mano's possession.

Which is not to say that in their 25 years of togetherness, Noli and Peachy had eschewed all romance. When talking about the long haul, what matters may not be so much romance as endurance, patience, commitment and faith that one's "starter marriage" has the makings of a lifelong one.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inqurier.com.ph

Where we are headed

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ONE does not have to be a seer to know that as a nation we may be heading toward disaster. We live in a time of great affluence and of astounding possibilities for human happiness and fulfillment, and this only makes the degrading poverty in our country so scandalous and so unnecessary.

We have changed our political leadership many times. Yet things do not get better with the passing of an old administration. Our population multiplies unabated, creating even more pressure upon limited resources. Our natural resources, depleted by wasteful use, are beyond redemption. The soil has dried up in many parts, making its cultivation sheer folly. Our waters are polluted and over-fished. Our farms are infested. Our children's stomachs are bloated from malnutrition and disease. Their brains are stunted from lack of nourishment. Despair runs through our people's veins. Those who can, leave. Those who cannot, seethe in anger, take the law in their own hands, or wait for relief in the next election.

There is a volatile accumulation of aimless resentment out there that can explode in ferocious violence at crucial moments. It could blow up this country anytime if only it were not deadened daily by gambling and alcohol, or by religion and television. But we continue as if it were business as usual.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is right in saying that poverty is our biggest problem. But she is systematically blind to what is needed to end its scourge. She knows that new solutions are politically risky, and, feeling insecure, she refuses to rock the boat. She methodically avoids stepping on the toes of the powerful, hoping to enlist their support for her reelection. Her strategy is to embark on a short-term program of high-profile charity with maximum impact. This explains the premium she puts on public relations.

The problem of poverty has become so acute and complex in our country that it is hard to say where a government must begin. My own view is that the first business must be to stem hunger and disease where they already exist. The appalling plight of the Mangyans in Mindoro, so near to Manila, is symptomatic of our pervasive indifference to marginalized communities. We cannot make their survival dependent on the recognition of local governments. The latter are too close to be able to see, and too familiar with pain to be shocked by it.

The second is to stop the tide of migration from the countryside to the cities by creating opportunities where people already live, through the long-term development of our regions. This means building schools, hospitals, markets, roads and ports in the remotest provinces, as well as modernizing agriculture and encouraging rural industries. There is no way we can defeat poverty without developing the productive capability of our people and making them economically active. To expect foreigners to do this for us, the way we expect American engineers and medical personnel to wipe out poverty in Basilan, is, I think, not only naïve but also an abdication of responsibility.

By now we should know that our efforts at economic development have failed mainly because of bad governance. Our borrowed institutions are as modern as they can be, but they are not working because our everyday relationships, which have remained deeply feudal and personalistic, contradict their logic. We pay lip service to the language of modernity with great skill, but we don't hesitate to tap traditional connections or resort to the crude methods of power to secure advantage in our daily affairs. At the base of this practice is a highly unequal society. We cannot expect change to come from those who profit most from this culture. The constituency for change has to come from those who are made to pay for it, and these are the very poor, and the truly talented, hardworking and productive.

Slowly the poor are becoming politicized and a growing number of patriotic Filipinos are coming forward to contest public positions that over the years were kept as the exclusive entitlements of a few families. But the shift is not occurring fast enough. We remain desperate for new leaders. Our electoral system is so expensive that the only threat to those with great wealth comes from those on whom the mass media confer instant popularity. And the latter are also all too quickly initiated into the ways of patronage politics.

Consequently there are no real debates, no real political contests. The Left stands alone at the moment as the only voice that offers any meaningful challenge to the discourse of the status quo. Yet it remains an insignificant voice, with no hope of capturing power in the near future. The situation urgently calls for new political parties, new movements, new voices that can articulate a vision of a better and more hopeful society for our children. Without reasoned debate, some space may be created for interventions based on force. These are costly in the long run, and without new ideas, they will not succeed.

The future may look bleak, but we are not a doomed people. The agony of our nation is spawning a new generation of decent and subtle young Filipinos who refuse to live by the old resentments and the stale paradigms of their elders. They made their presence felt at Edsa II, and though they may be dismayed by what has happened since then, they have not lost hope. In a few more years they will be the leaders of the nation. The horizon looks brighter because of them.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

THEY SAID

Sacrosanct day

"She recognized the fact that Labor Day is a very sacrosanct day for working people."
—Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable on the President's decision to move back to May 1 the Labor Day

Pain of war

"We've really no grave to call our own. That's the pain of the war. I've lost my father, never enjoyed being with him in life and even in his death."
—William Seeckt on his American father who reenlisted in the US Army to defend Bataan

Bill of controversy

"President Corazon Aquino, who has become a symbol of our newfound democracy, didn't have the swollen ego to have herself included in the P500 bill which featured her husband."
—Rep. Gilbert Remulla on the P200 bill that would feature President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Does holiday economics work?

THE GOVERNMENT has adopted a four-day workweek for this month and the next and moved to a Monday or a Friday national holidays that fall in the middle of the week so that workers get an additional day off. The aim of "holiday economics" is to boost domestic tourism.

It was in response to the sharp drop in the number of foreign tourists after the United States, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore issued advisories to their citizens not to travel to the country because of kidnappings and others threats.

This early, the tourism secretary says the program is working. It has boosted domestic travel, generated jobs and made many people happy—the very arguments of the tourism secretary in pushing for extended vacations. His claim is supported by a group of tour operators who reported that the average hotel and resort occupancy rates increased more than half during the extended holidays on All Saints' Day, Christmas, Holy Week and Araw ng Kagitingan.

They did not say that the surge in local travel was seasonal. People usually go home to their provinces or visit resorts during the long holidays. The tour operators and the tourism secretary also did not mention the extent by which Filipinos had picked up the slack caused by the sharp drop in the number of foreign tourists.

A labor economist says the government line that longer weekends lead to development, through the promotion of the tourism industry, turns economic theory on its head. He says a precondition for the promotion of the domestic tourism industry is high productivity and growth, two things that the government has not accomplished. If people have the money and more leisure time, they will ask for more vacation leaves so that they can travel. As it is most Filipinos can't afford to travel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made a go of holiday economics. Many fulfilled their dreams of reaching places they longed to see. Just being with kin was enough for others to head for their hometown.

'It endangers long-term chances of promoting productivity'

By Leonardo A. Lanzona
Chair, Economics Department
Ateneo de Manila University

WHEN I first heard of the term "holiday economics," I thought it was a joke. However, events seemed to have taken a bizarre turn when official dates for national holidays were modified and extended casually and when three-day weekends for government employees were enforced. The punchline is all the more eerie: the government intends to encourage domestic tourism through these measures.

Granted that there is a need to promote domestic tourism, there are a number of conditions for holiday economics to achieve its objective. First, the prices of these holiday tours, not only in terms of their direct costs but also the time costs of engaging in these activities, must decrease to a level that is enough to induce the average person to go out-of-town. Second, the incomes of the average individual should increase to such an extent that he can now afford these domestic tours. Third, even assuming that prices have lowered and incomes have increased, the average person should prefer to engage in greater leisure activities, as opposed to more productive activities such as farming and other forms of self-employment.

Comparison

The issues here are rather empirical in nature, and if the government indeed wants to convince us that holiday economics will be effective, then it will have to supply us the required set of data and empirical analysis. Further, since the issues here are specific to individuals and households, the analysis will have to consider the various consumption and productive decisions of these specific individuals and groups. In other words, it is not enough to engage in inter-country comparisons since the culture, structure and the institutions found in other countries are different from the Philippines.

More importantly, the risks of holiday economics are also conceptual in nature. In much of the world today, the time spent at work has declined secularly. This is because of two main reasons: First, economic development has increased the incomes of individuals so that leisure becomes more affordable and less costly. This means that even before one thinks of leisure activities, economic growth should have already been achieved and demand for these activities has increased. The official line of the government that holidays lead to development, through the promotion of the tourism industry, thus turns economic theory on its head. Unfortunately, a precondition for the promotion of the local tourism industry is still a clear focus on productivity and growth, conditions that this government will still have to accomplish.

Opportunity costs

Second, the secular decline in the workweek throughout the world can be attributed to the decisions of young people to delay entering the labor market by lengthening their period of schooling. In other words, there is a clear recognition of the opportunity costs of not working, and the expected returns of nonworking (in this case, greater education) are supposed to be greater than these opportunity costs.

The difficulty with the government's line of thinking on holiday economics is that there is no productivity consequence that can be expected from this program, except perhaps to support the fledgling tourism industry. If this industry really feels that the amount of money that it obtains from this program is well deserving, then this should be supported by evidence of improvement in and efficiency of its service. Yet, if this industry already possesses these qualities, then there is no need for government intervention. People will willingly demand its services and ask for more vacation leaves from their work places to avail themselves of the services. The worry is that even if holiday economics does succeed, the country will only end up transferring resources and money to an inefficient and depreciating industry.

'Even if holiday economics succeeds, the country will end up transferring resources to an inefficient industry'

Irrational

Furthermore, any loss in productive time from working should be compensated by equally productive time in some other non-working activity (such as the case of self-employment). If the objective is simply to promote the tourism industry without considering any productivity increases to compensate for the reduced work time, then the program is completely irrational.

All these points betray the government's lack of appreciation of the economic value of human time. The economic theory of human capital treats earnings foregone as part of the cost of its acquisition. Simply put, any loss of standard working time can be justified if this leads to the formation of human capital. The implementation of holiday economics with its penchant for promoting resorts, tours and beaches can imperil the country's acquisition of human capital if non-working days and weeks are not spent toward its formation. Since the achievement of economic growth undoubtedly involves the increase in the stock of human capital, holiday economics endangers the long-term chances of improving the productivity and growth of this country.

'Job creation is at the core'

By Richard J. Gordon
Tourism Secretary

A LOT of people were happy during the long weekends. In many homes, children jumped with joy when their parents told them to pack because they were going on trips. Breadwinners were glad about the chance to get their needed rest. Some, who stayed at home, were fulfilled, as they were able to do chores left undone for quite some time.

We have had four long weekends since

The air for rest and recreation was light. They had time to travel.

Long weekends made out of declaring existing holidays on a Monday or Friday enable people to plan trips and carry them out. "*Huwag maging dayuhan sa sariling bayan*" rings hollow if people are not given the time to move around comfortably.

We are an archipelago. To make it to our destinations, we often need a combination of air, land and sea transport. To reach Bohol from Manila, one needs a ferry ride after flying to Cebu. The pristine islands of Palawan can be reached by ferry from Puerto Princesa. These ferry rides are most enjoyable, too, as they afford travelers the sight of fine islands strewn near one another.

Wow

The four sets of long weekends let loose latent energies of people for travel. With time on hand and with the information campaign on Wow Philippines! tour packages, it was indeed "wow" as attested by the Philippine Tour Operators Association. Their hands were full with inquiries and bookings. Bus companies fielded more trips. Airlines were full. So were hotels, resorts and inns. National occupancy figures shot up at unprecedented rates over the same period in previous years. Our destinations were teeming with people.

The set of Wow Philippines tour packages is the first of its kind. It involves more than 28 destinations, using five international gateways and major seaports. It is drawn up in cooperation with the private sector and involves financing mechanisms. Reliable public transport is used in some of the packages to ensure affordability. In the case of Banaue, tour operators now say more and more students are able to make their way there because of the publicized and well-priced Wow packages.

It isn't vacation for all, though. When some people go on a break, others work. They earn a living. Others make oodles of money on the business that is tourism.

Buyers

During the long weekends, *balut* vendors were happy to see more park-goers. Boatmen in beach resorts were glad to see people waving at them for a ride. Vendors of fruits and native delicacies cast their worries about unsold stuff. They even had to go back to their suppliers because buyers, motorists, and passersby were grabbing them, excited about buying fresh at lower prices.

The carpenters, the handymen and the lads who gather thatches and bamboo enjoyed the sight of people relaxing in the pagodas and under the *pala-pala* they made. Their eyes brightened, anticipating there would be more work for them in the future when visitors flock again to the beaches. Resort *lavanderas* heaved sighs at the thought of the mounds of towels and linen to be washed after guests leave. But their hearts wore a smile. The mounds meant cash. And cash meant allowances for children in school. It meant not leaving their families to go to the cities and work as househelps.

The air for rest and recreation was light. They were earning.

At the core of holiday economics are creating jobs and attracting more investments in tourism.

Our investors in hotels, beach resorts, inns, transportation and tour operation are making money because of the long weekends. The Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines recently faced the press to report on the gains because of this. They want it and hope they can continue to build on it.

On our part, we continue to ensure that investors get to recover their investments as improved services and infrastructures are integral parts of a successful tourism program. We need more investments to increase the attractiveness of our destinations and to allow us to compete with our neighbors. We need more investors to service our inter-island connections. We need more facilities to prime our sites.

Nationhood

As domestic tourism serves many purposes on the home front, including the important function of fostering nationhood, it also serves as a practice arena for international tourism. Domestic tourism speeds up the development of a national culture of tourism. We hone our ability to service our foreign guests through the demands of the domestic market. We want a good share of the global market because it brings in revenue.

After the Lenten and Araw ng Kagitingan holidays, our office was swamped with letters from owners of tourist establishments, expressing their delight and gratitude over the long weekends that brought them more warm bodies than expected.

Holiday economics is nothing new. Many American holidays are either on a Friday or a Monday. Japan is getting into holiday economics now because it works.

Businessmen like it. We do away with sandwiched holidays. Work momentum is maintained. No longer do they have to gear up for a week, only to have a holiday mid-week, then come back to work on Thursday and Friday and be off again for the weekend.

Holiday economics does not foster laziness. It does not involve the declaration of any new holiday. We do not condone laziness. As mayor of Olongapo, we hoisted banners that read: "*Bawal ang tamad sa* Olongapo."

Government employees

The modification of the schedules of government employees during the summer months of April and May to allow them three-day weekends even extended to the public more hours of service. All government offices remain open the whole week.

Rescheduling enabled some employees to report as early as 7 a.m. and for some to knock off at 7 p.m. Employees of private companies need not go on leave from work to transact with select government offices as these have people working until 7 p.m. No man-hours are lost because they continue to render the required 40 hours per week. No one misses his month's pay. The staggered movement of government personnel even improves traffic.

Employees' morale also improved. They emerge recharged and are better psyched up for work, having had more time with their families in these summer months when school kids are at home.

Holiday economics upholds the family as a state institution. It serves to protect this vital social unit as it provides opportunities for families to bond and share memorable experiences together.

Also at the core of holiday economics are the enhancement of family values, holistic care of the self through relaxation and pursuit of social and personal interests.

Importantly, the scheme raises the people's level of travel awareness. Knowing they would have the time next year for long weekends, they are able to plan and save up for the desired package or travel escapades. People don't go to the beach on a bike. People must plan for travel.

Travel is doable and affordable. Holiday economics has already helped people get away from the "no money" mentality. The experience of the past four long weekends showed that more Filipinos could travel. The only thing that many need is the mind-set for it.

Tourism gives our people jobs. With jobs and improved living, more of our people can partake of the wealth of wonders our country offers. We are certain there will be more happy people when future long weekends come.

Sara Lee

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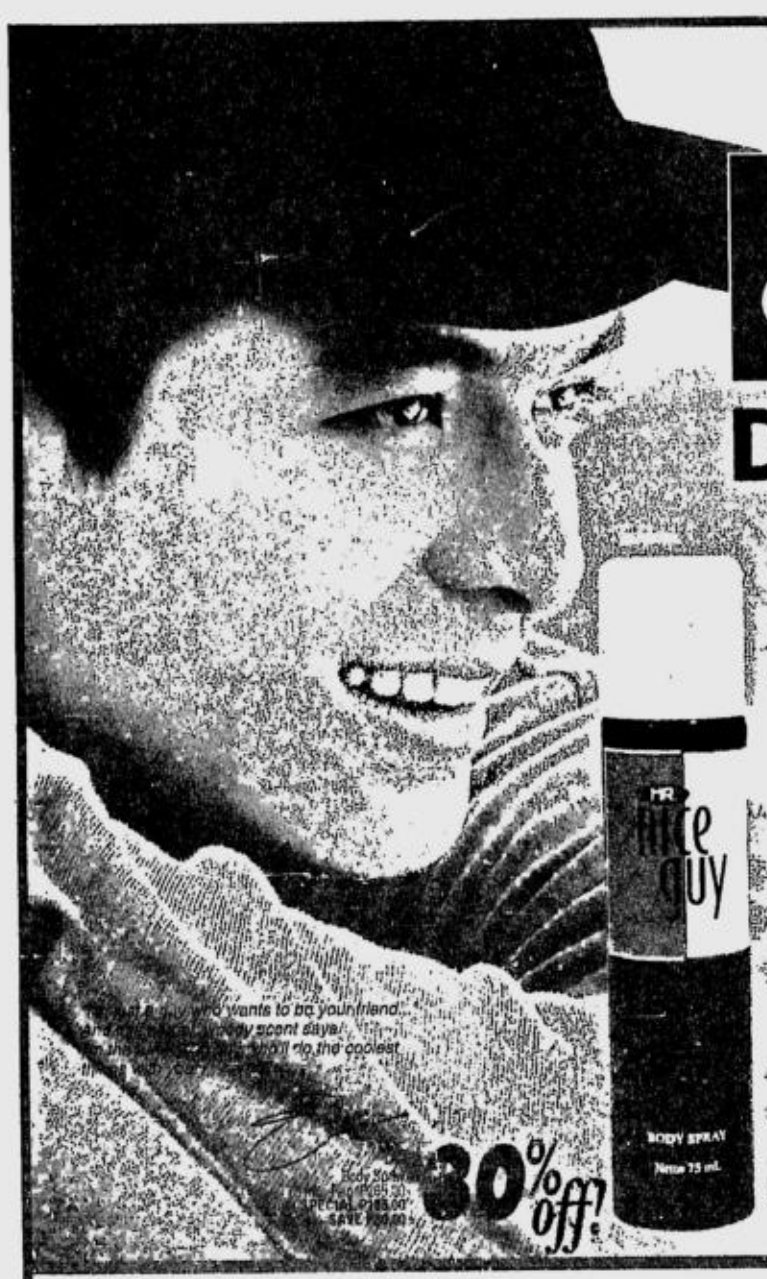

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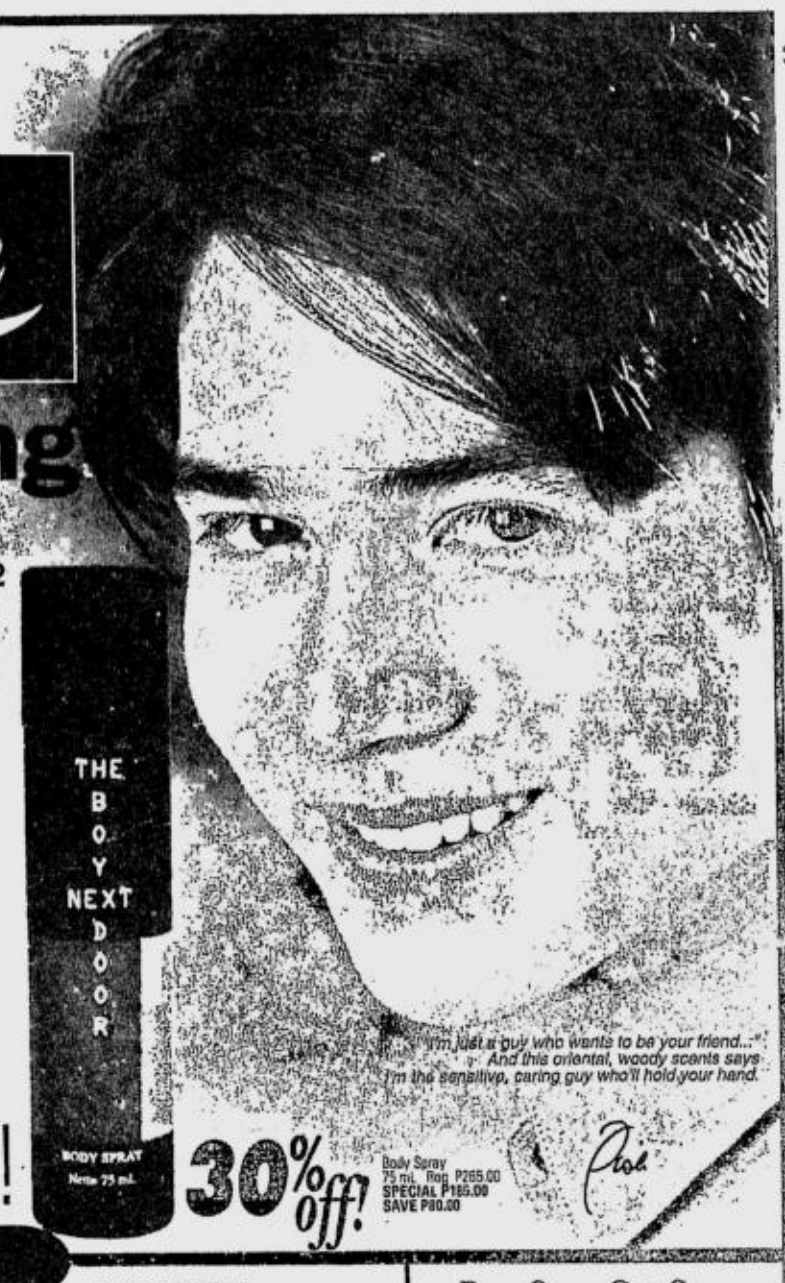

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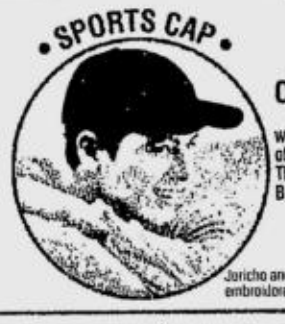

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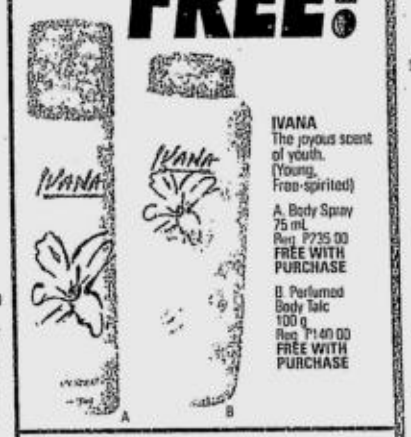

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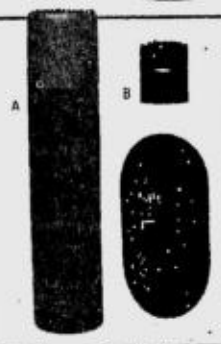

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

PALESTINIAN boys play behind an Israeli army barbed wire barricade in Bethlehem, April 26. REUTERS

Bush tells Israel to end military operations 'now'

JERUSALEM—The United Nations agreed to delay a mission to the West Bank Palestinian refugee camp of Jenin, while Washington mulled a Saudi peace plan and called again for an immediate halt to Israeli military operations.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan agreed to the delay until Sunday at the request of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who said it would give the Israeli Cabinet time to discuss the mission before its expected arrival, said Kieran Prendergast, the UN undersecretary general for political affairs.

US President George W. Bush insisted Israel must end its military offensive in Palestinian areas "now," after another Israeli raid defied his earlier demands.

The plan presented by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to Bush during a meeting on Thursday was a sweeping document addressing several pressing areas in the Middle East conflict, including calls for an end to the Israeli siege of the West Bank town of Ramallah and deployment of an international peacekeeping force.

"The paper the Saudis presented the president had a whole series of ideas on it, many of which the president views (as ones) that we can make progress on," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, whose Ramallah compound is surrounded by Israeli tanks, was on Saturday to confer with a Palestinian negotiator from Bethlehem, where Israeli troops continued to besiege gunmen in the Church of the Nativity.

The negotiator, Salah Taamari, had made meeting Arafat a precondition of further talks on ending the 24-day-old standoff peacefully and securing the safe exit of more than 200 clergymen and other civilians holed up in the church with some 30 gunmen.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, the Israeli Army redeployed around Qalqilya town after briefly re-occupying it on Friday, killing a local militant leader, and arresting at least 46 men.

The move followed Bush's repeat call for Israel to complete its withdrawal from West Bank areas reoccupied during operations unleashed on March 29 after a wave of Palestinian attacks that killed scores of Israelis.

"There has been some progress but it's now time to put it all together. It's time to end this," the president declared.

Bush's comments in Texas came a day after Abdullah told him that Washington's Middle East interests could be at risk unless it restrained Israel.

Israel's West Bank offensive drew atrocity allegations, the most serious centering around the three-week assault on Jenin refugee camp and prompting the UN fact-finding mission.

Palestinians say hundreds of civilians may have died in Jenin, many in dwellings flattened by tank fire and bulldozers. ***Reuters***

Palestinians question Arafat role in crisis

By Rawhi Abeidoh

JERUSALEM—Four weeks into Israel's military offensive in the West Bank, some Palestinians are beginning to question President Yasser Arafat's handling of the crisis.

While accusing the Israelis of ripping up peace accords, some Palestinian officials and intellectuals are voicing concern over the way Arafat has dealt with the confrontation and relations with Israel's guardian ally, the United States.

Some said the Palestinian Authority's leadership would need a complete overhaul once Israeli troops withdrew.

"There is bitter resentment toward Israel, first and foremost, but there are also some misgivings toward the Palestinian Authority," said Ali al-Jirbawi, professor of political science at Bir Zeit University.

"The Palestinians are in a state of shock and disbelief. They are asking why we have reached here—this destruction and anarchy with no ray of light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Few Palestinians question Arafat's status as their undisputed leader, but many criticize him for autocratic leadership, inability to articulate their cause and tolerance of corruption and mismanagement in the Palestinian Authority.

Manuel Hassassian, professor of political science at Bethlehem University, said the situation once the offensive was over would be "catastrophic." "We need a complete overhaul in the leadership if and when this crisis is over," he added.

Some officials also agree reforms are needed, but insist they cannot be made under outside pressure.

"The Authority cannot continue as before. It must undergo fundamental changes on all levels," Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan said. "Arafat realizes this and we hope we overcome this crisis so that positive things can happen."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sent tanks crashing into West Bank cities, handed to Palestinians under the Oslo accords since 1993, on March 29 after suicide bombings that killed scores of Israelis.

Palestinians say Sharon, who had never hidden his opposition to the Oslo agreements, has torn up the peace accords to bury their aspirations for statehood.

But Israel argues Arafat effectively scuppered the deals by failing to prevent, if not actively sponsoring, violence during a 19-month uprising against occupation. ***Reuters***

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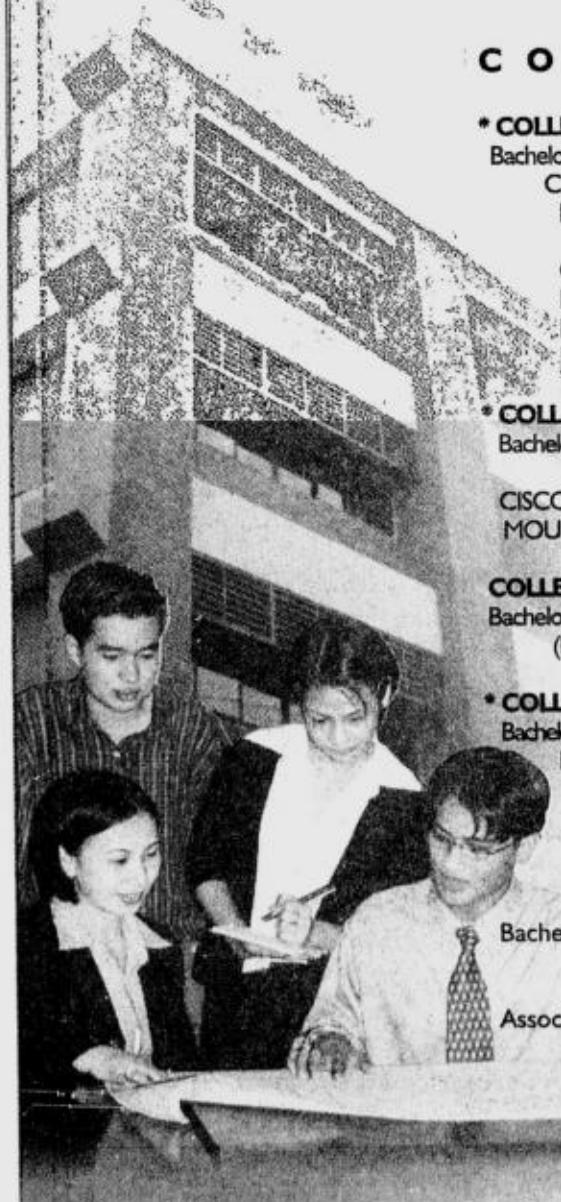

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LISA "Left Eye" Lopes performing "U Know What's Up" during the 14th annual Soul Train Music Awards in this March 4, 2000 file photo. REUTERS

Le Pen accuses Chirac of sleaze

PARIS—With just over a week to go until France's presidential vote, far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen sought out his rival's Achilles' heel Friday, accusing President Jacques Chirac of seeking a second term in order to escape the attentions of the law.

"What (Chirac) wants essentially is five more years of impunity. By then he's hoping for a nice little amnesty law to wipe out all the judicial past that could form the basis of an investigation," Le Pen told a news conference at the headquarters of his National Front in the Paris suburbs.

The 73-year-old former paratrooper, who caused a political earthquake when he qualified for the run-off presidential election on May 5, is hoping to build on the 16.86 percent he won on Sunday by appealing to voters angry with corruption in the political establishment.

President since 1995, Chirac, 69, has been personally implicated in illegal party fundraising during his 18 years as mayor of Paris but has rejected successive attempts by judges to make him give evidence.

Courts have ruled that as a serving president he enjoys immunity from prosecution, and Chirac is highly vulnerable to accusations that he is seeking reelection merely to put off the day when he has to face the courts.

Meanwhile, his campaign received a new boost Friday when longtime adversary Prime Minister Lionel Jospin emerged from several days of silence to urge his supporters to ensure Le Pen is kept out of office.

Jospin, who came third to Le Pen in Sunday's first round, called on the French "to express by vote in the presidential election their refusal of the extreme right and the danger it represents for our country and for those who live in it."

However the Socialist leader, who announced his resignation from politics after Sunday's defeat, refrained from explicitly calling for a vote for Chirac. *AFP*

TLC member Lopes killed in car crash

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras—Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, a controversial member of the chart-topping American R&B trio TLC, was killed when a sports utility vehicle she was driving with eight passengers flipped off a road in northern Honduras, police said on Friday

The crash happened outside the Caribbean port city of La Ceiba at about 5 p.m. on Thursday on the road to the nearby town of Jutiapa, where Lopes was vacationing, transit police investigator Johnie Cole said.

Cole said investigators believed the crash was caused by speeding.

"The vehicle flipped three times and Lisa Lopes died in the hospital from fractures and internal injuries," Cole said.

The eight passengers, all US citizens, were injured, some seriously, in the crash.

Lopes, 30, becomes the second female R&B singer to die tragically in less than a year, following the death last August of rising star Aaliyah in a plane crash in the Bahamas. Arista rapper Notorious B.I.G. was killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles in 1997.

Atlanta-based TLC secured its status as one of the most successful female trios in history when its 1999 album "FanMail" topped the US pop charts and sold more than 8 million copies.

"We had all grown up together and were as close as a family. Today we have truly lost our sister," said surviving TLC members Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas and Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins.

TLC recently had been in the studio working on a "FanMail" followup set for release this summer.

"No words can possibly express the sorrow and sadness I feel for this most devastating loss," said Arista Records President and CEO Antonio "LA" Reid. "Lisa was not only a gifted and talented musical inspiration, but more importantly, she was like a daughter to me. My thoughts and prayers are with Lisa's family and friends. Her legacy will be remembered forever."

Lopes, a Philadelphia native who provided the raps for TLC, made headlines in 1994 after she was arrested for burning down the house of then-boyfriend Andre Rison, the former Atlanta Falcons wide receiver. She was fined and sentenced to five years of probation, and then entered rehab to deal with a drinking problem. *Reuters*

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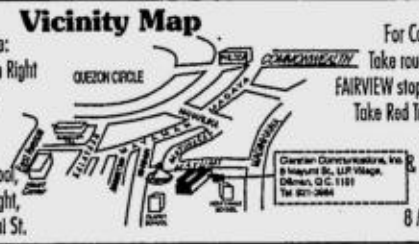

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US cardinals want zero tolerance on sex abuse

Prelate spurned priest's threat

BOSTON—The predecessor to Cardinal Bernard Law spurned an apparent blackmail threat by an accused pedophile priest who later was supported by Law, a revelation that has further fueled public cries for Law's resignation, according to court documents made public.

The Rev. Paul Shanley wrote to the late Cardinal Humberto Medeiros in 1979 and threatened to tell the media about "shocking" details of alleged homosexual lifestyles at an archdiocesan seminary, according to a confidential letter released on Thursday with more than 800 pages of documents.

Shanley's letter apparently was an attempt to avoid being reassigned because he had been accused of sexually abusing children.

Law, the senior US Catholic Church prelate, went into seclusion and met secretly with Pope John Paul II earlier this month after documents revealed that he transferred Shanley to new jobs, even though he knew the priest was accused of sexually abusing children.

But it was another Boston priest, John Geoghan, who triggered the scandal that has rocked the Church. Geoghan is accused of abusing more than 130 children over 30 years as a priest.

Law and other Church leaders shuttled Geoghan from parish to parish in the 1980s and 1990s despite the accusations against him. Geoghan is serving a nine-to-10 year prison sentence for fondling a boy at a YMCA pool. *Reuters*

REUTERS

CARDINAL Bernard Francis Law sings during a Mass for the Catholic University at the Cathedral Basilica for Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, April 26.

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—US Roman Catholic cardinals, battling a child sex scandal in the Church, said Friday they support a "zero-tolerance" policy toward abusive priests.

The announcement came after their unprecedented meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican to discuss the pedophilia scandal that has engulfed dioceses across the United States.

"All of the cardinals are agreed on zero tolerance," said Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia.

"By that I mean that we all are agreed that no priest, guilty of even one act of sexual abuse of a minor, will function in any ecclesiastic ministry or any capacity in our dioceses," he said.

The statement seemed designed to reconcile divergent positions on the matter ahead of an upcoming conference of bishops that would vote on a nationwide policy.

The cardinals, who want to establish national standards for dealing with priests and pedophilia amid an escalating scandal, would support the zero-tolerance position at a June meeting of US bishops in Dallas and press for Vatican approval to make it a binding Church law for the entire United States, he said.

If approved by two-thirds of the nation's 440 bishops, the position will be sent to the Vatican, where "hopefully it will be accepted by the Holy See," he said.

Bevilacqua, archbishop for 1.4 million Catholics in Philadelphia and its Pennsylvania suburbs, said media reports suggesting the 12 cardinals who met with the Pope this week differed over such a policy were simply not true. The Pope unequivocally declared pedophilia in the Church a crime.

Bevilacqua said confusion over the cardinals' position may have arisen from a distinction between the treatment of one-off offenders who would be removed permanently from active ministry and "notorious" serial offenders who would be expelled from the clergy altogether.

"No one who's guilty of even one act of sexual abuse of a minor will perform in any capacity," he emphasized.

The US Catholic Church—its 400 bishops, 46,000 priests and nearly 200 dioceses—has been rocked for months by a growing scandal over priests sexually abusing children that began with revelations of pedophile priests in Boston.

While cardinals and bishops agree on the need to defrock priests found guilty of the most serious offenses, they have been divided about the best way to handle one-time-only sex abusers.

US cardinals were divided over the meaning of an often vague and nuanced document released following their meeting at the Vatican on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony and Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick said they interpreted the statement to mean that there was no room in ministry for one-time abusers.

But Cardinals Francis George of Chicago and Edward Egan of New York said they were not sure a zero-tolerance stance was the Pope's intention.

Church officials said if the Vatican accepted a vote in favor of zero-tolerance from the June conference, it would become binding on every US diocese.

Accusations of child molestation have been made in at least 17 US dioceses, setting off criticism and mistrust among the nation's 64 million Catholics, the largest US denomination.

The Pope summoned the cardinals for crisis talks after it became clear that decades of sexual abuse by Catholic priests, and attempts by the hierarchy to cover it up, had damaged the Church

He stressed there was "no place" in religious life for those who would harm young people. *AFP, Reuters*

US lags in sex education, says study

WASHINGTON—Iran may let 9-year-old girls get married, but it could still teach the United States something about sex education, Population Action International said in a report issued on Friday.

Well-meaning adults trying to protect children and teenagers from sexual activity are actually keeping vital knowledge from them, and this is true around the world, the report from the nonprofit family planning advocacy group says.

Only the Netherlands has an exemplary policy, the group said, citing statistics that show the Dutch reap benefits from their policies that include exceptionally low rates of teenage pregnancy, HIV infection in youth and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Iran has a relatively strong public health system through which family planning and maternal health services are widely delivered," Margaret Greene, who helped write the report, told a news conference.

"In the United States we are increasingly headed toward a politicized content with no guarantee of medical accuracy . . . whereas Iran has developed age-appropriate sex materials that are very accurate and explicit," Greene said.

"I'd say there is far less hypocrisy in this area."

The group cited moves in Congress, where a House of Representatives panel on Wednesday endorsed funding "abstinence only" sex education, defeating opponents who called for a broader sex-education curriculum providing information on birth control and sexually transmitted diseases.

The panel also dropped wording in the bill that would require sex education programs to be backed by scientific research.

The group also points out, however, that Iran's religious leaders recently blocked moves to raise the legal age of marriage for girls from 9 to 15 and that Iran's sex education programs assume that all sexually active couples are married.

The problem in most countries is that they do not respect the ability of adolescents to make wise decisions for themselves, said James Waggoner, president of Advocates for Youth, which supported the report.

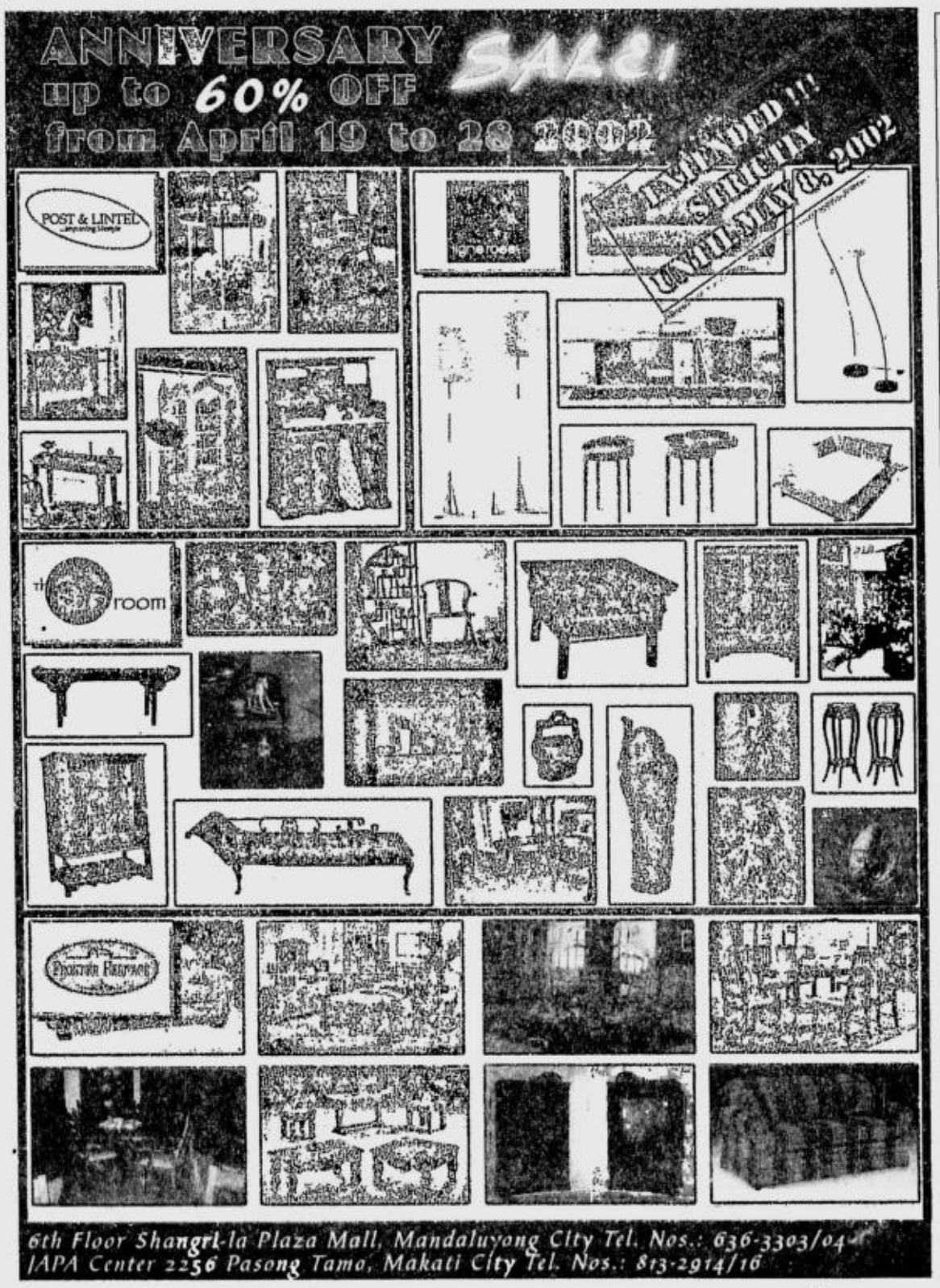
"Too many policymakers subscribe to the caricature of adolescents as mere hormone-driven accidents waiting to happen," Waggoner said.

The groups especially attacked abstinence-only education programs, which teach only that sex before marriage is wrong and do not offer any information to teens who may be having sex anyway. The result can be deadly, Waggoner said.

"Our HIV rate for young men is three times higher than in the Netherlands. Our rate for teen births is 11 time higher than in the Netherlands. Our teen gonorrhea rate is 74 times higher than in the Netherlands," he said.

Many studies have shown that open sex education that includes information about contraception and that also attempts to build self-esteem can lower sexual activity rates and result in fewer pregnancies and cases of disease, the report says. *Reuters*

PEARL LINGERIE Anri Takao of Triumph International Japan displays a set of brassiere and panties "Pearl Bra" (price: $115,000) studded with 3,000 pearls and decorated with antique laces at the opening of Triumph's luxury shop in Tokyo April 27. AFP



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 28, 2002
5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7

In those days, as the number of disciples grew, the so-called Hellenists complained against the so-called Hebrews, because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve summoned the whole body of disciples together and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God to serve at tables. So, friends, choose from among yourselves seven respected men full of Spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them to this task. As for us, we shall give ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

The whole community agreed and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and Holy Spirit; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenus and Nicolaus of Antioch who was a proselyte. They presented these men to the apostles who first prayed over them and then laid hands upon them.

The Word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly and even many priests accepted the faith.

2nd Reading: 1 P 2:4-9

Dear sisters and brothers, Jesus is the living stone rejected by people but chosen by God and precious to him. On drawing close to him, you also became living stones built into a spiritual temple, a holy community of priests offering spiritual sacrifices, which please God through Jesus Christ. Scripture says: *See, I lay in Zion a chosen and precious cornerstone; whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.*

This means honor for you who believed, but for unbelievers also *the stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone* and it is *a stone to stumble over, a rock which lays people low.* They stumble over it in rejecting the Word, but the plan of God is fulfilled in this.

You are a *chosen race a community of priest-kings, a consecrated nation, a people God has made his own to proclaim his wonders.* For he called you from your darkness to his own wonderful light.

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. If you know me, you will know the Father also; indeed you know him and you have seen him."

Philip asked him, "Lord, show us the Father and that is enough." Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father; how can you say: 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do; and he will even do greater than these, for I am going to the Father."

Commentary

Jesus, our way, truth and life, was the victim of a miscarriage of justice. Truth is like grass—obliterate it with concrete, it will sprout anew even in the smallest cracks. Its seeds remain beneath the concrete, and when the concrete crumbles it is the grass, which will endure. When goodness and honesty are trampled upon so that powerful persons can hold on to their positions, when justice is mocked by those who study the law only to manipulate it, when the innocent and truth-tellers are murdered, truth rises again through those who stay faithful to it. Jesus did not shrink from his confrontation with corrupt power. At his trial he spoke the truth. In death he prayed for his executioners. So his Spirit is able to empower a revolution, which promotes truth and accountability, yet avoids vindictiveness.

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Clinton could be TV host

WASHINGTON—Former US president Bill Clinton could soon start a gig as the cohost of a morning television program, US media reported Saturday.

ABC-TV's gossip show "Extra" reported that Clinton is a candidate to succeed retiring television host Bryant Gumbel as the co-anchor of "The Early Show"—a breakfast news program on rival network CBS-TV.

The ex-president, who left office 15 months ago, already has been busy in retirement: his William J. Clinton Foundation is assembling teams of business experts to provide financial, marketing and other technical advice to owners of small businesses in Harlem, where he maintains an office.

Earlier this month he took on a new job as a senior adviser to two investment funds run by a cut price grocery store tycoon, the Los Angeles-based Yucaipa Companies said.

And he is in the process of penning his memoirs, set for publication in 2003, for publishing house Alfred A. Knopf, which paid him an advance of more than $10 million—the largest ever for a nonfiction book published in the United States. *AFP*

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Cargo vessel sinks; 13 saved, 1 missing

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—One person was reported missing while 13 others were rescued when a cargo vessel carrying 8,500 sacks of rice sank at least 10 nautical miles south of Danao City at dawn yesterday.

A search-and-rescue operation was launched to locate Rufino Baral, 42, captain of the ill-fated LCT Golden Dragon 2000 of Siberia Dragon Shipping. The firm, based in Mandaue City, is owned by Carlos Wang.

Air Force authorities at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Airbase also sent an S-76 rescue helicopter to the Camotes Island to look for Baral.

Cebu Coast Guard Station Commander Feliciano Dy said the Golden Dragon was not overloaded when it left Pier 5 here at about 9 p.m. on Friday. It was scheduled to arrive in Tudela town in Camotes at about 4 a.m. yesterday.

The ship was bringing in rice from the National Food Authority for the islanders.

Dy said the vessel was battered by big waves and sank at around 12:30 a.m. between Danao and Camotes.

"Because of the strong waves, the door at the portside was destroyed and the water went inside the vessel," Dy said in Filipino.

Fishermen from the towns of Liloan, Consolacion and Compostela, who were near the area when the vessel sank, rescued the 13 crewmembers.

They were identified as Jul Cuevas, chief mate; Johnny Rosasina and Reynaldo Aniana, quartermasters; Julius Aulao and Dennis Curvera, apprentice engineers; Jonar Gonglong and Lito Godinez, apprenticemates; Eutiquio Bering and Lervie Salindo, oilers; Allan Merino, second engineer; Erwin Sumatra, chief engineer; Luciano Briones, a cousin of Baral; and Pedro Nolasco, an NFA employee.

The survivors were brought to the Liloan police station and later moved to the Coast Guard station here.

In an interview over radio station dyLA, Cuevas said he last saw Baral inside the vessel before he jumped into the sea. He said he did not know if Baral was able to jump out of the vessel before it sank.

Cuevas said the waters were calm when they left Pier 5 but turned rough when they reached Danao.

Water reached the engine room after the waves destroyed the door at the portside, he added.

Fely Abiar, weather forecaster at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration based on Mactan Island, said the weather condition was not normal.

An easterly wave with thunderstorm occurred at around 12 midnight, which could have triggered the big waves, she said.

Dy said the crewmembers would be made to appear before a special board of marine inquiry to shed light on the cause of the sinking.

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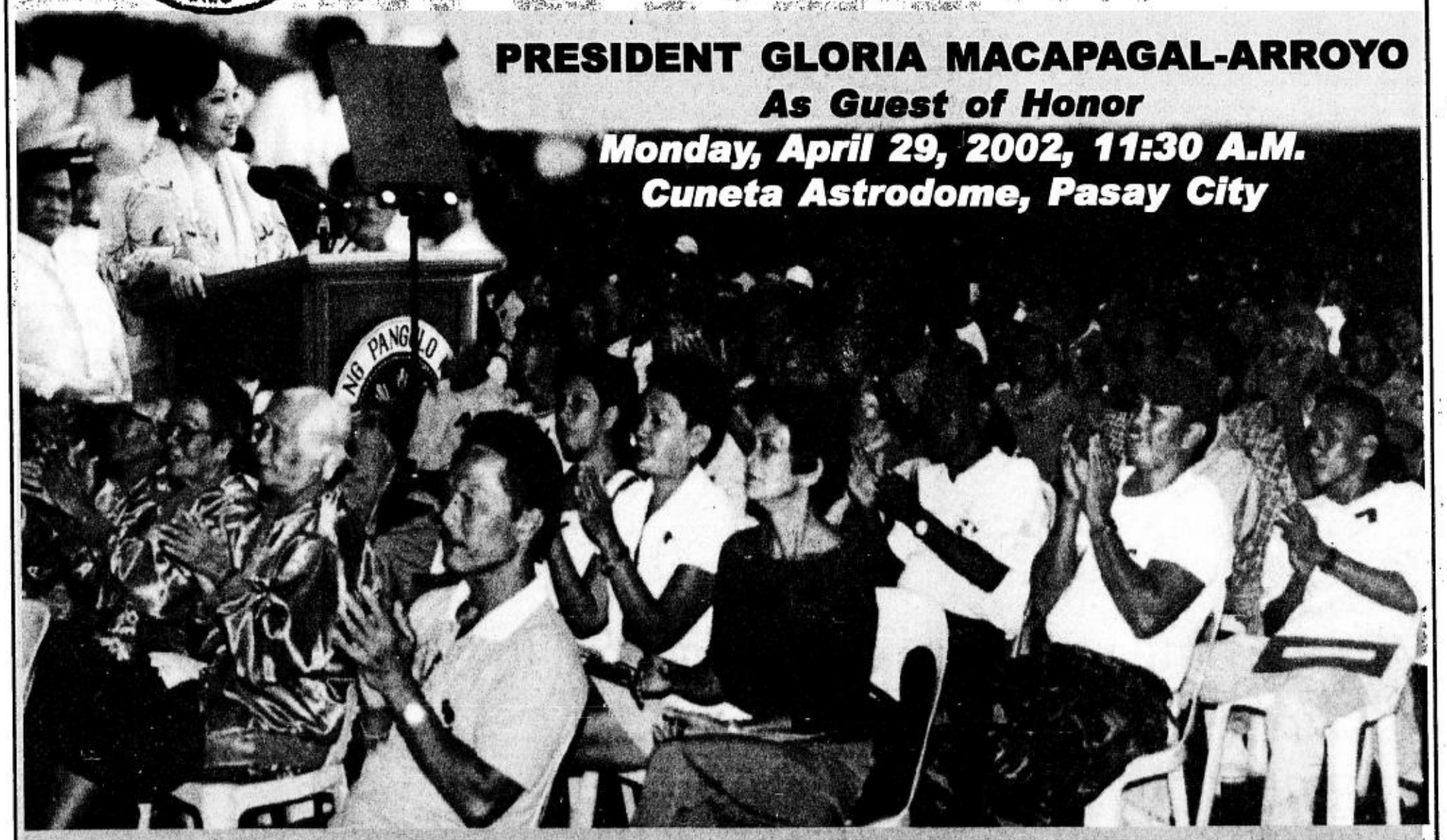

"KAPAYAPAAN IPAGLABAN, KAAYUSAN IPAGLABAN, ISULONG ANG KAUNLARAN"
BPOC - Sagot sa KRIMEN

'Kuliglig' ban pushed; 11 dead, 6 hurt in crash

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—At least 11 persons were killed while six others were injured early Friday when a bus collided with a jeepney after it tried to avoid hitting a hand tractor on the national highway here, police said.

The accident, the second involving hand tractors known as "*kuliglig*" in less than 48 hours, raised anew calls for the ban on the slow-moving vehicle on major highways.

On Thursday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and three others were slightly hurt when the senator's Mitsubishi Pajero bumped a *kuliglig* along the Maharlika Highway in Talavera, Nueva Ecija. ***(See story below.)***

Chief Insp. Dionisio de Guzman, Bambang police chief, said the bus veered to the opposite lane and into the path of the jeepney, after its driver tried to avoid hitting the rear of a slow-moving hand tractor.

"The latest road tragedy here gives another reason for government agencies to adopt stricter measures to limit or ban hand tractors along highways," he said.

The fatalities were Cesar Garcia, the jeepney driver; his mother Agripina; Pedro, Judith, Lourdes, Hydei, Elmer and Ramir, all surnamed Agualin, of Barangay Villaros in Bagabag town, and three others identified only as Rey, Sonny Boy and Kiko, all of Barangay Murong in Bagabag.

Police said the victims were going to Pangasinan to attend a relative's wedding in San Carlos City when their jeepney collided with the Autobus bound for Tuguegarao City at 5:30 a.m.

The bus driver, Henry Lucas, claimed he was surprised to see the *kuliglig* that, he said, "emerged out of the darkness" on the highway in Barangay Macate here.

He is now detained at the police station here while homicide charges are being readied against him.

The injured were taken to the Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong town, 9 km from here.

The operator of the hand tractor and two of his passengers were injured when they were thrown off the vehicle.

PARCHED LAND. Benguet farmers have been wishing for rains to save thousands of hectares of vegetable fields in Kibungan town. NATHAN ALCANTARA

Benguet farms lose ₱4.2M to drought

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Kapangan and Kibungan towns will lose about P4.47 million worth of vegetables and rice if no strong rains come next month, agriculture officials here said.

Provincial agriculturist Lolita Bentres said 547.6 tons of vegetables and 197.5 tons of rice in the country's "Salad Bowl" have been damaged due to intense heat and lack of rain.

Dionisio Bello, agriculturist at the Office of the Benguet Provincial Agriculturist, told the El Niño Task Force last week that the recent afternoon showers were not enough to quench the parched fields of Kibungan and Kapangan.

Most of the farming areas were found to have cracked and caked due to lack of moisture, he said.

According to reports, 96.2 hectares of land planted to potato, garden pea, cabbage, beans and carrots in Kibungan were affected by the drought.

Local agriculturists said plants in 38.5 hectares of land have wilted and have no chance of recovery while those planted in 57.7 hectares of land may recover if the rains come.

Bello said 547.6 tons of vegetables in various stages of development have been destroyed. Damage was estimated at P2.84 million.

A total of 388 hectares of rice fields in Kibungan and Kapangan have been affected. Bello said 98 hectares of rice land have no chance of recovery while 290 hectares have a slim chance.

Meanwhile, La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan castigated the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in a meeting of the provincial peace and order council for not exerting efforts to prevent forest fires.

"It is your mandate to protect the environment and yet you always reason out that there are no funds, equipment or personnel to undertake this. What are you there for? If you cannot fulfill your task, you might as well turn this over to the local governments so that we could attend to this or tap community effort," Fongwan said.

More than five of the 15 hectares of communal forest in Barangay Poguiz here were razed by fire.

Bartolome Dulinen, DENR forestry specialist, said 1,944.55 hectares of forestland in seven towns have been hit by brush and forest fires this year. ***Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Pimentel hurt in road mishap

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and three others were slightly hurt Thursday when the senator's Mitsubishi Pajero bumped a *kuliglig* (tractor-drawn passenger vehicle) along the Maharlika Highway in Talavera town.

PIMENTEL

Police said Pimentel was on his way to the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) here as guest in a biotechnology forum when he met the accident at 10 a.m.

The accident site is about 4 km from the CLSU.

Pimentel, who was traveling with two backup vehicles, was the only passenger in the Pajero. His driver was not hurt.

When Pimentel reached the university, he asked for a mirror to check on a cut in his lip. When he saw that he was not badly hurt, he insisted on proceeding immediately to the stage to address the forum.

The senator delivered a message for a few minutes and later went around to observe various development projects.

Police said the *kuliglig* came from a gasoline station and was crossing the highway when it was hit by the senator's vehicle.

The Pajero also hit a parked Isuzu Elf truck. The vehicle Pajero, police said, was damaged and was towed to the CLSU motor pool.

The driver and two passengers of the *kuliglig* were taken to a local hospital.

In his speech, Pimentel mentioned the accident and thanked God that he did not have major injuries.

The senator asked his aides to check on the condition of the *kuliglig*'s passengers and to inquire how his office can help them. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

GMA urged to order recovery of missing Bayan men

TARLAC CITY—A group of writers, including the wife of a missing activist, appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the speedy recovery of four abducted Bayan Muna members.

"I believe that you (President Arroyo) would understand how painful this has been for my children and me," said fiction writer Aleli Dew Batnag-Ayroso, wife of Honorio Ayroso, one of the four missing activists, in a letter.

"I believe that as the highest official in the land, you could ease our pain. Please help us bring Honor (Honorio Ayroso) and Jun (Juan Orcino Jr.) back to us," she added.

The petition was also signed by 250 journalists, literary writers, and members of the academe.

"Honor is a good man, a loving father and husband and my very best friend. He deserves the best efforts we can do to find him," Ms Ayroso said.

A witness' description of one of the captives matched that of 44-year-old Juan Orcino Jr., who, together with Ayroso, was abducted last February in San Jose City.

Also missing were Rowena Bayani and Edwin Villaruz, who were believed to have been abducted by Army soldiers in Aurora.

Ms Ayroso, however, expressed hope that her husband is still alive as she and her family vowed "not to lose hope in finding her husband against all odds."

"Madam President, we know that a wife's search for her missing husband may seem trivial compared to the myriad problems that you, as President, must face. But on the most basic, personal level, the most vulnerable victims of violence, terrorism and poverty are mothers like (Ayroso) and (their) children," the petition said.

The discovery of the charred fragments of human skeletal remains in Barangay Padapada in Gerona town could be those of the four abducted Bayan Muna members.

A fact-finding mission initiated by the human rights group Karapatan-Central Luzon said that while the bone fragments had yet to be identified, "circumstantial evidence" pointed to the possibility that those belonged to the four missing activists. ***Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

1,500 former power plant workers stage rally in Lucena

LUCENA CITY—At least 1,500 former workers of the coal-fired power plant in Barangay Ibabang Polo in Pagbilao town held a rally on Thursday in front of the governor's office here to seek help in getting wages amounting to P75 million.

Adrian Atay, president of the Pagsasanib Bisig/Lakas Organization or Pagbilao Union, said they wanted to solicit Gov. Wilfrido Enverga's help in collecting the overtime pay of 1,873 workers of Hopewell Power Plant, former operator of the plant facing the Tayabas Bay.

Every worker, according to him, is entitled to 2.5 hours of overtime work, which, he claimed, has not been recognized by Mirant Philippines, the new operator of the plant.

"Based on the computation, the average worker is entitled to at least P22,000 each. But Mirant is giving us the merry-go-round. That's why we're seeking the assistance of Governor Enverga," Atay said.

"Most of us have already suffered for so long. The money that the company owes us should now be given to the workers," he added.

Ironically, the same power plant also owes some P600 million to the provincial government in unpaid realty taxes.

The workers marched to his office, Enverga was not around. Romeo Cardenas, one of the governor's executive assistants, received the protest leaders and promised them that he would brief Enverga on the workers' problem. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Fire hits university in Cebu City

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A fire of still unknown origin hit the University of Cebu compound on Sanciangco Street at about 4 a.m. yesterday, destroying a school building and damaging three others.

The school owner, lawyer Augusto Go, collapsed during the fire fighting operations and was brought to the Chong Hua Hospital. His condition was later declared stable.

Go went to the area to personally supervise the firemen.

The fire, which lasted more than an hour, was put under control at about 4:35 a.m., said Chief Insp. Roberto Pardebilla, city fire marshal.

Christopher Daligdig, a security guard of the university, said that at 4:06 a.m., he saw smoke coming from the Office of Discipline on the top floor of the three-story Chua Building, an old wooden structure.

He said he immediately alerted the city fire department. But the blaze spread to the adjacent structures—the four-story Cebu Technological School and two five-story buildings used by the high school departments.

Go said he had planned to knock down the Chua building because it was already old. However, he said, it had some sentimental value because it was the UC's first building when it started operating in the 1950s as the Cebu City College.

The school was renamed the UC in the 1990s. Its compound on Sanciangco has at least five school buildings for both high school and college departments.

8 aides of Abra mayor arrested

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Eight armed aides of an Abra town mayor were arrested Thursday while they were allegedly about to ambush a rival town mayor in Tineg, Abra, reports here said.

Reports said the suspects, who were identified with Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, had positioned themselves atop a hilly ground along the road to the town proper.

They were identified as Henry Saguid, 31; Jeremias Tandi, 29; Roy Tandi, 27; Joel Cabrera, 26; Johnny Barrera, 26; Ricky Lantawan, 24; Jun Cabrera, 24; and Joel Dican, 20.

Seized from them were seven M-16 rifles, one M-14 rifle, one shotgun and assorted bullets.

The suspects were charged with illegal possession of firearms before the provincial prosecutor's office on Friday after they failed to show their gun licenses.

In Camp Dangwa, Benguet, police said a Tineg councilor was among those arrested.

The suspects reportedly told investigators that they were about to ambush a group of Tineg Vice Mayor Edwin Crisologo Sr., a known political rival of Benwaren.

Reports said Crisologo's men were seen earlier following Benwaren and his men while the mayor and his companions were visiting remote villages in Tineg.

The suspects said Benwaren bought the seized firearms to protect themselves from Crisologo's group. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

ADVICE CORNER

NGO taps Internet to give free legal aid to OFWs

DAVAO CITY—A non-government organization is taking advantage of the Internet to offer free legal counseling to overseas Filipino workers.

Ildefonso Bagasao, chair of the Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos (ERCOF), said the OFWs can now avail themselves of legal services by logging on to the Ercof website at http://www.ercof.org.

The Ercof previously offered legal service only to OFWs based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since its program in Switzerland began late last year, Bagasao said his group has received at least 32 cases.

Most of the problems encountered by the Filipino workers in Geneva included questions on acquiring land property, what to do when their families are wasting their money or when their spouses are seeing someone else, he said.

"You can't really work efficiently if you worry about problems back home that you personally can't manage," Bagasao said.

He said the Ercof also handled a controversial case involving a Filipino maid, who alleged that a foreign diplomat in Geneva raped her in January.

Bagasao said the case was referred to them by a Swiss mission group of lawyers focusing on cases of abuse against domestic helpers in Switzerland.

"This is just one of the many cases of abuses committed against OFWs who are afraid to come out (especially if) they are undocumented (aliens)," he said.

With the launching of a free legal advice corner in the website, OFWs in other parts of the world who encounter legal problems can now consult Ercof lawyers.

"We give them pointers on what they can do legally or refer them to other private lawyers or the Integrated Bar of the Philippines," he said.

Although the legal service is free, Bagasao said the center encourages donations.

Bagasao said the Ercof was also planning to establish a halfway house for OFWs who suffer physical abuse or any kind of exploitation for psychological counseling and support services. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Arts and culture on the islands

FOR weeks, I had had the opportunity to be "stranded" on the islands "just a stone's throw" away from the Pacific Ocean.

The islands belong to the towns of Carascal, Cantilan and Cortes in Surigao del Sur. I criss-crossed the islands, anchoring a day or two in tiny fishing villages and getting acquainted with the local folks.

The scenery, especially at dawn and dusk, was one to die for. Thick fog draped the protruding islets as the first streak of sunlight lift it away. Bright, blazing red-orange sunlight dazzled in the late afternoon, like there was no end. Many times, I wished that I was living here, content with a simple villager's life.

But I was there for an assignment only. I facilitated an arts workshop on poetry, essay, song and playwriting in preparation for the Barangay Arts Festival (BAF) that women's groups in the area were organizing.

Admittedly, I had had reservations. Will the villagers warm up to the idea of writing? Worse, will they ever bother to attend? But I always believed that in every 10 Filipinos, there was one or two who passionately loved to sing or (secretly) act or to recite poetry.

For a start, as I was in the middle of a poetry session, an elderly woman came forward to share a poem she probably learned from her ancestors. Everyone fell silent as she began.

A younger woman stood, put a veil on her head, walked to the center and interpreted the poem. There were tears running down the poet's chin. Applause followed. Later, the young woman told me she was taken so much by the poem that she couldn't stop herself.

"I'm a frustrated actress," she joked. "It's only now that I have the chance to show it." I told myself I need not worry anymore.

In one instance, a woman villager asked what use was poetry when it was already unheard of, dead. An older man stood up and answered, "It's dead because we allow it. Poetry (and serenade) is killed by disco and Beta (Betamax videotapes) as forms of recreation. No wonder the children now don't know much about respect."

I was curious if they really understood what culture and arts meant. There were empty stares and silence. A woman said she had heard of it but she thinks it was what urban and rich people do.

When I explained what it was, some reacted, *"Kinahanganglan diay nato ni arong madunggan ang atong tingog ug mapagawas ang atong pagka-artista* (We need this so that our voice will be heard and we can express our artistic side)."

A 50-year-old homemaker confessed that she would like to write poem but was embarrassed. "I only reached Grade 4." The morning after the session, she secretly showed me her unfinished poem. Written in the vernacular, it was about her life and her connection to the sea.

Loloy, a 34-year-old fisherman who loves music, postponed his fishing chores to join us. When I told him I was not a musician, he was a bit disappointed. But when I said I would be giving pointers on composition and tune, he brightened up.

There was this girl with a heart-shaped face who was intensely listening, never allowing herself to be distracted by the noise of the crowd. She was most focused when I talked about scriptwriting and drama. Maybe she wants to be an actress. I could tell.

An old man, who has a heavy voice and a bit deaf, kept asking questions to the irritation of other participants. When someone asked him what category he was joining in the festival, he shouted, *"Tanan! Kung naay sayaw moapil pud ko!* (All. Even dance, if there is one.)" Everyone laughed.

Earlier, a woman leader told me of her apprehension. "Our youths are shy and passive. They don't participate in community affairs. That is our problem." As the workshop was about to begin, young people started flocking in. I would like to believe maybe that it was a matter of how people want to express themselves and find the medium.

Back in the city, when an all-knowing professional friend asked me what was I doing on some forgotten Pacific islands, I told him I had a wonderful, uplifting encounter he will never have.

DUGONG MINDANAW

Ramon Jorge Sarabosing

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. – ED.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly over the Eastern section. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 37° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 35° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/04/28/02

GENSAN BOMBING

Slaughter of the innocents

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
General Santos City

IT was about 3:15 p.m. Sunday when my cellular phone beeped from my jacket. The text message read: "Bomb exploded in front of Fitmart. Initial report says 3 died on the spot, 15 injured. Am at St. Elizabeth Hospital."

The message came from Tots Escalada, a good friend and former media colleague who is now working with the Habitat International.

A gory sight of bloodied and maimed victims sprawled on the pavement kept flashing in my mind. Deep inside, my instinct was insisting there were more casualties than what was reported.

Five minutes later, Tots sent another text message: "The number of casualties rose to 5." A few minutes later, another message: "7 were already dead."

Then the number kept rising. From seven to 10, then 11. I felt cold. Suddenly, I wanted to dash to release tension and anger mounting deep inside. We were speeding on the highway at 120 kilometers per hour. At one instance, the speedometer was at 160kph when the gutsy driver stepped hard on the gas pedal on our way back to General Santos. It was a Sunday and many vehicles were plying the Koronadal-Gensan route, but the driver managed to evade cars racing from the opposite lane.

At the scene

It was my shortest travel time from Koronadal to General Santos. We left Koronadal at around 3:35 p.m. and 20 minutes or so later, I was already at the scene of the blast.

Two Simba tanks were parked in the middle of Daproza Avenue, a few meters from the explosion site. A multitude of *usiseros* stood behind the police line. Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief for Central Mindanao, was patiently accommodating questions from journalists.

Members of the Scene-of-the-Crime Operations (Soco) team were scouring the place for material evidence. I saw one holding broken nails and lead, wires and blasting caps.

Blood splattered on the pavement stank. Slippers and other personal belongings of the victims were scattered all over the sidewalk.

The sidecars of three tricycles parked at the site were peppered with tiny holes created by bomb shrapnel. A pushcart loaded with mangoes was damaged.

Tricycles, slippers, pushcart—most of the victims were poor and innocent civilians. They were there either to shop or to eke out a living.

Many questions were in my mind, which until now have no answers. What's happening to this city? Why were innocent civilians targeted?

Cerla's story

In the morgue, I saw the real face of terror. A six-year-old boy's face was almost blown into smithereens. I learned later that he was Jerry Omani, son of Ceria, a sidewalk vendor.

A RESCUE worker helps bring the bombing victims to the hospital. AQUILES Z. ZONIO

Ceria lost two kids in the blast. Jerry's elder sister, Jocelyn, 13, was also killed.

Between sobs, Ceria narrated that she left her children behind to buy them a late lunch. She hurriedly came back after hearing the powerful explosion. When she arrived, she saw bystanders holding the bloodied, lifeless bodies of her children.

She became hysterical. She could not accept that in just a blink, a bomb snuffed out the lives of her children.

At the St. Elizabeth Hospital, Daisy Guiñares was weeping beside June Ivy, her six-year-old younger sister. Her mother and 6-year-old cousin died in the blast. Her aunt and younger sister suffered shrapnel wounds and were undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Nothing, she said, could ease the grief in her heart.

Daisy went to Fitmart to shop along with her mother June Cynthia, 36, Aunt Elena, 33, and cousin Artvin, 6. They had just alighted from a tricycle when the improvised bomb went off.

Hadji's mad

Hadji Nasser Tumbaga, 56, was furious. His son, Jack, a tricycle driver, was at Fitmart to pick up passengers. He later learned from radio reports that Jack was among the dead.

He lambasted the perpetrators of the bombing. "They should not call themselves Muslims," he said because Muslims don't kill, especially innocent children, women and elderly people.

When asked whether he wants justice for his son, he just grinned and said, "Just bring the suspects to us. I'll be the one to kill them. Under the Islamic law, death is the minimum penalty for what they did to civilians."

Of the 74 victims, 11 were children and 16 were women. Four of the 11 young victims died, three were hospitalized and four were discharged as outpatients.

The youngest victim was 5-month-old Analyn Algabre.

Of the 16 women victims, 11 were hospitalized, four were killed and one was an outpatient. One of the 11 wounded women was pregnant.

I had witnessed several senseless killings at the height of hostilities between Ilaga cult members and the Blackshirts several decades ago. I was then a child and my family was trying to avoid being caught in the crossfire. We slept beside a creek, in the jungle and at an evacuation center.

But back then, tears did not cascade on my face and I was not seething in anger like what I felt when I saw what happened at Fitmart—children and pregnant women lay sprawled in a pool of blood.

The good ones

It was consoling, though, that good Samaritans and generous benefactors went out of their way to help the victims. Cash, food, blood and other forms of assistance came one after the other.

The local media helped find blood donors for the injured.

Shortly after the incident, Abu Muslim Alghazie called up Elmer Ubaldo, station manager of the dxKR Radyo Agong in Koronadal, to tell the public that his group was responsible for the carnage.

He said his group was just retaliating against what the military did to Muslim civilians in Basilan and Jolo.

The guy was fomenting an ethnic war. He claimed that Mindanao belongs to them and that they will not stop sowing terror in various parts of the country unless their objective is achieved.

Abu Muslim

The most tragic thing was that the military and the police could not give any categorical answer as to who really is Abu Muslim.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told reporters that Abu Muslim has not been included in the list of wanted Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Why Abu Muslim and his group, the Al Harakatul Islamiya, remain a myth even to government intelligence agencies, which spend millions of pesos of taxpayers' money for covert operations, is mind-boggling.

There were views that the perpetrators were able to sneak bombs into the city due to the weak leadership of Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. and the failure of the police and intelligence community to anticipate events.

Abu Muslim had earlier claimed responsibility for the burning of the Kimball Plaza and the KCC Mall, but the police and military considered its statements a mere hoopla.

Before the explosions, text messages had circulated, warning residents that 18 bombs would explode in the city.

The police set up checkpoints in four strategic exit and entry points. Policemen on foot patrol prowled the main streets. But still the unexpected happened.

A day after the bombing, everything seemed to return to normal. But fear, uncertainty and helplessness pervaded the business community. It needed more than just an assurance that such tragic incident will not happen again.

Manny Yaphuckon, acting chair of the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the bombings would definitely have a serious impact on the local economy.

Business activities have slowed down. Many tricycle drivers have been complaining that they could no longer earn enough to make both ends meet as the number of mall goers has drastically gone down.

The public market is no longer crowded, even during peak hours.

As the city was still reeling from recent floods, an earthquake and fires, the bombing incident plunged it back to ground zero. When will it bounce back? Only time can tell.

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Kidnapped journalist is free

From page A1

channel at the time of her abduction, was freed at the boundary of Indanan and Patikul towns in Sulu around 5:40 a.m. yesterday.

Legarda, herself a former TV news anchor, said De la Cruz was turned over to Jundam by her captors led by a certain Lakandula.

Both De la Cruz and Legarda flatly denied speculations that ransom was paid for her freedom, saying that it was "an unconditional release."

"What they asked for is progress. You see the Muslims there need help. They are asking for infrastructure, livelihood projects. And probably this is what the government can give them and I will help," Legarda said.

In Zamboanga City where Legarda and De La Cruz flew from Jolo on an eight-seater, Super King Air B-200, De la Cruz said her captors did want money in exchange for her freedom but that *"napapakiusapan naman sila."* (We were able to appeal to them.)

Legarda added that it only required her team of negotiators to do some *"himas-himas"* (friendly persuasion). "And, we really appealed to them short of really crying," the senator said.

Crucial role

Legarda said the role of Jundam, who's a professor of Islamic studies, was crucial. Jundam personally talked with the kidnappers in the boundaries of Patikul and Indanan and "he did it without coordination from any influential people or even with the military or the police."

"I worked every day on the De la Cruz problem," Jundam told the INQUIRER. He said he was very nervous in the final hours before the release.

"Even for a moment, I could not sleep because I was worried that at the last minute they (kidnappers) would change their mind again," Jundam recounted.

Jundam gave all the credit to Allah. "I'm very happy that God has given us the privilege to save a woman just like my mother, daughter, my sister, thanks to Allah."

Military officials said they would probe the De la Cruz kidnapping and the circumstances leading to her release amid speculations that some P2 million was delivered to her kidnappers for her freedom.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander Task Force Comet, said the military was surprised on learning about De la Cruz's release.

"Mystery still shrouds the hostage incident which only Arlyn can fully explain," said Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Armed Forces spokesperson.

The military had said that she was missing under unclear circumstances. Iglesia ni Cristo, her employers responded to reports of her kidnapping by saying only that she was on assignment in the field. Her family has been silent.

De la Cruz was abducted by armed men believed to be Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) integrees in Jolo, Sulu on Jan. 19. She said that she had been dragged around several towns in Jolo. She was later handed over to the group of one Lakandula, who is neither MNLF or Abu Sayyaf member but an ustadz, according to Legarda.

In Zamboanga City, De la Cruz revealed that some of her abductors were still active in the military service. She said some of her captors regularly draw their salaries from the military and that they would also, from time to time, report to their postings either in Sulu or in Cotabato.

"It's a composite group," De la Cruz described her kidnappers. "They are integrees, they have no names. They have various reasons for coming together. Their right foot is inside the military and their left foot inside a new rebellion. It's like the AFP is their mistress but their legal wife is the rebellion."

SURPRISE negotiator, Sen. Loren Legarda, accompanies De la Cruz on her flight aboard a chartered plane from Zamboanga City to Manila. JESS YUSON

These are serious allegations, Sua said and urged De la Cruz to formalize her disclosure of the involvement of military elements in her abduction by filing a complaint.

Family first

But at the Manila Domestic Airport, De la Cruz seemed not quite ready to talk about her abductors.

"I have an idea. In fact I even know their names, but please let me go home first. Let me see first my family. Let me talk first to the elders of the Iglesia ni Cristo before I open my mouth," she said when asked if she knew who her abductors were.

Her second husband, Edwin Collantes, and their two children were waiting for her at the INC central office in Quezon City where they had their reunion from the airport.

De la Cruz, however, hinted that her abductors thought she was carrying ransom money for the Abu Sayyaf in exchange for the release of its hostages, American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

"When they seized me, they had only one question: `Where's the money?' They thought I was carrying ransom money. What they got from me was P2,000," she recalled.

De la Cruz took exception to speculations that she had staged her own kidnapping or that she was abducted after she duped the Abu Sayyaf in a money deal.

Other media questioned whether De la Cruz had staged her own disappearance because of ethics issues raised in the past over her relationship with the Abu Sayyaf.

De la Cruz denied those accusations.

"I was away for three months, and you think this was not kidnapping," she said in response to a question at the Manila Domestic Airport.

Mission

"I was on a mission. I was going to interview Khadaffy Janjalani in an island somewhere farther south. He was going to make a statement on the Burnhams and the Balikatan exercises. Any reporter would want to interview Janjalani. He is considered an international terrorist. She was willing to be interviewed. I took the risk."

Risks

De la Cruz has taken many risks. In a letter to her media colleagues earlier this month, she said that as a journalist going after a story and getting it first was what mattered most to her. In November, she obtained the first interviews of American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, who are being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.

She had also obtained the first interviews with Western tourists snatched by the Abu Sayyaf from the Malaysian Sipadan resort in 2000.

Friends/critics

Her friends argue De la Cruz is a hardworking reporter who has won the Abu Sayyaf's trust, which they say has spawned slander from jealous competitors.

Critics call her a self-promoter, questioning whether she cut a deal with the al-Qaida-linked rebels to share the proceeds from interviews with its captives that are sold to the highest media bidder.

Reporters Without Borders and the Union of Journalists of the Philippines had expressed concern about her safety.

De la Cruz, said her abduction would not stop her from covering Mindanao again. "If they had wanted to scare me by abducting me, sorry," she said.

Legarda intervention

Legarda said Jundam in February and asked her to help him work out the release of De la Cruz. She, however, declined, saying she could not go to Sulu because she was pregnant. She lost her baby.

When Jundam called again in April, she agreed to help. "I told him let's help one another as a sister, friend and a mother. We took advantage of our good relations with our Muslim brothers to convince them to release Arlyn," she said.

Legarda admitted that last Thursday, she already knew of the broadcaster's scheduled release. The De la Cruz's family had asked the senator for help because they said a skeptical military had stopped looking for her. In the past three years, Legarda has set a track record of facilitating the safe release of police and military captives such as Maj. Gen. Victor Obillo and Maj. Noel Buan.

Terrorism, not China, target of US military presence—Myers

From page A1

Asia-Pacific region. We are a Pacific Rim nation and a lot of our trade and our well-being relates to what happens in this region.

"This is not an issue about China, this is an issue about our presence in the region to promote stability and hopefully . . . good commerce."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said the possibility of Basilan becoming a forward base for military operations in Southeast Asia was very remote.

"It's not going to happen," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said the US cannot revive its military bases in the country or station military troops here permanently because the Constitution prohibits it, unless covered by a treaty ratified by the Senate. Pimentel was one of the senators who voted in 1991 to kick out the US military bases of Clark and Subic Bay.

Malacañang said it would not allow the establishment of a foreign military base in the country. Nonetheless, according to Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, the security relations between the Philippines and the United States were "at a peak" and that the visit of Myers was proof of that.

But critics, including the US Troops Out Now! Alliance, concurred with the Stratfor analysis that the US are setting up a forward base in Basilan and chided the administration for turning as blind eye on such developments.

Former Navy Capt. Danilo Vizmanos, convenor of the alliance, said Stratfor was right on the US intention "to make Basilan and the rest of the country a staging ground and forward base for military operations in Southeast Asia."

Vizmanos, in a press statement, added that the government was "feigning ignorance over the whole issue."

'Playing blind'

"It's difficult for those playing blind to see the truth," he said.

Myers said the US military presence in Asia had not grown substantially since the Sept. 11 attacks, since many of the forces involved in the anti-terror campaign were from other regions in the Asia-Pacific.

But more than 3,000 US troops are now in the Philippines for joint exercises with local troops, Washington's biggest overseas deployment in the war on terror outside of Afghanistan.

About 1,000 of the soldiers are in Basilan and Zamboanga City and the war games there are aimed at eliminating the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, whom Washington has linked to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, chief suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Myers said the chief concern was that al-Qaida, which he described as a network of about 10,000 people who wanted to acquire weapons of mass destruction, could attempt to regroup.

"We know that the al-Qaida is looking for other places to train and plan operations. They can't do that inside Afghanistan any more . . . and I think we have to be very cautious and very vigilant about where that might be.

"It could be here as well as other places in the Middle East."

He refused to comment on reports of al-Qaida camps in Indonesia, which has more Muslims than any other country in the world.

The US military presence has been sharply criticized over concerns Philippine sovereignty might be affected.

'Full US support'

Myers said the current administration had offered full support in US efforts to clamp down on terrorism.

Asked if the deployment of troops in Mindanao might be extended beyond the original six-month time-frame, which expires in June, he said: "This war on terrorism has to be event-driven and not timeline-driven.

"You can't say that in two months we are going to accomplish something and then go on to something else. That would apply to the efforts here as well.

"I think the US government would be very receptive to requests from the Philippine government for future training assistance and advisory roles for the US armed forces, if that's what the Philippine government wants."

Myers met yesterday with President Macapagal Arroyo and other officials.

He flies today to Zamboanga City and Basilan to meet US troops on exercises. He then visits Japan and South Korea, Washington's top two other military allies in the region. ***Reuters, AFP, with reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Cynthia Balana***

Freedom Force agenda includes Charter change

From page A1

majority of the members of the present Congress.

He also said he would like to see a Constitution suitable for the Filipino people.

Cojuangco said Freedom Force would launch a campaign "to make the people aware of what's going on" and would issue a manifesto next month to this effect.

This was among the things that Copa secretary general Pastor Saycon subsequently announced on Friday. Saycon also said the Copa would seek a ceasefire with Malacañang once the "the truth has been established" that the group was not engaged in a junta plot.

No war

But Malacañang sees no need for such a ceasefire with the Copa because "there has been no war in the first place," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said yesterday in a statement.

He said in a radio interview that the President also had no immediate plans to meet with Copa leaders and Freedom Force personalities because they had publicly stated their support for the government, and Malacañang had accepted it.

Afable also said the Palace would wait for the manifesto that Freedom Force promised to release next month to explain its concept of "collective leadership."

"Let us see what their manifesto will say and move the debate forward from there," he said.

On the other hand, Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, the President's adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, said he welcomed Saycon's call for a ceasefire.

But he said he was not taking back his statement that the Copa and columnist Teodoro Benigno had tried to sell the idea of a junta to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"I welcome (Saycon's call). But I'm not firing. I'm the one being fired at," Limcaoco told the INQUIRER. He said he wanted to put the issue to rest after the flak he drew from Benigno, Saycon and Cojuangco.

In offering a ceasefire, Saycon asked the President to "act" on Limcaoco's leak of the junta story to the INQUIRER.

But Limcaoco said the President had "no reason" to sanction him. He maintained that she did not order him to leak the alleged junta plot and Sin's letter disclaiming support for Freedom Force.

Limcaoco said Saycon's group still had some explaining to do because other people such as Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran had confirmed the junta plot.

"There are many other parties now talking about it. So they have to convince these people (that they're not after a junta). I'm the least of his worries," Limcaoco said.

He added: "Am I changing my story? What is there to change? Just go back to His Eminence's letter (to Benigno on April 22)."

FVR

Afable also said that the administration still had the "utmost respect" for former President Fidel Ramos, and that it "never assumes that when (his) former officials speak, they either speak for him or reflect his views."

The acting press secretary was apparently referring to Ramos men Salvador Enriquez, a former budget secretary, and Cesar Sarino, a former chair of the Government Service Insurance System.

A Palace official had earlier said Ramos was suspected of being behind the alleged junta plot.

The official pointed out that Sarino, whom Ms Macapagal named last year as her adviser for Southern Tagalog, was with Freedom Force advocates when they met with Sin.

But Afable said Ramos has "consistently helped the government maintain political and economic stability" in his role as a senior statesman.

Afable said Ramos had been traveling abroad to boost economic diplomacy and investors' confidence in the country.

"He has helped build international confidence; he has helped bring in investments. The government values his statesmanship," Afable said.

Sarino himself said the controversy was getting "wild."

"People with very sinister motives must be behind this President Ramos and Cesar Sarino conspiracy," he said in a statement. "Someone is deliberately spinning and adding fuel to the supposed coup and . . . junta."

Sarino said that "for the record," he attended two meetings of Freedom Force advocates "to learn more about it and to find out how it can be harnessed to complement the policies and accelerate the programs of (the President)."

Fianza

In Tacloban City, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police should look into the involvement of Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza in Freedom Force.

"(Fianza) is a police officer. I do not know what he was doing in a political powwow of the politicians. That is prohibited under our laws. He should be held accountable for that," Pimentel said in reference to Fianza's presence at the meeting between Sin and Freedom Force advocates.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon said all this talk about a junta plot was hurting not only the President but also the whole country, particularly the economy.

Lawyer Teofilo Pilando, national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said the "collective leadership" advocated by Freedom Force is already existing.

"(Under the Constitution), the people are given the right to participate through their representatives in Congress and by electing a President," he said.

Pilando also said that if the group were indeed pushing for a civilian-military junta, it should not expect to gain support from the people.

Vulnerability

Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the controversy surrounding Freedom Force showed the administration's "vulnerability."

"The paranoid reaction of (the President's) sycophants to a rumored power grab, whether real or imagined, only serves to expose the inherent weakness, instability and vulnerability of the present regime to being unceremoniously removed from power before 2004," Casiño said in a statement.

He said the President was "averse" to talk of changing her style of and "has chosen to make war on her critics instead of listening closely and addressing their legitimate grievances."

"As far as she is concerned, her leadership is infallible," he said, adding that "for this administration, the only good supporters are those who agree completely and uncritically with her government's policies and programs."

Preemptive strike

Casiño pointed out that the President's attack on Freedom Force was "a preemptive strike to stop the further crystallization of anti-Arroyo sentiments into a popular movement for genuine change."

On the other hand, he said, the forces most capable of mounting a coup could be found in the President's "own small circle."

He named Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as the one most capable of launching a coup attempt, and noted that Ms Macapagal could stage a "self-coup" by declaring martial law and suspending the Constitution, as then President Ferdinand Marcos did in 1972.

"Bayan is against any attempt to foist military rule on the people in the form of a military or civilian-military junta," Casiño said.

He said a "broad front" against the administration was steadily growing because of the President's supposed failure to "effectively address the chronic problems of poverty, underdevelopment, human rights abuse and criminal syndicates." ***With reports from Alcuin Papa in Manila; Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

'Warum?' Germans ask why after mass murder

Killer described as shy, ordinary, loner . . .

ERFURT, Germany—He was called shy, ordinary, a loner, unassuming, timid and even lazy. But no one who knew Robert Steinhaeuser thought the troubled 19-year-old would turn into one of Germany's most savage killers.

On Friday, Steinhaeuser shot and killed 16 people at his former school, the Johann Gutenberg Gymnasium, with a pistol and a pump-action shotgun. Then he took his own life in one of the world's worst school killings, leaving the entire nation grappling with questions about his motives.

Steinhaeuser had failed to qualify with the rest of his class last year to take the "Abitur," a high-school exam required for entry into a university. He was forced to repeat the final year but he was expelled in February for forging absentee excuses.

He lived with his mother, a hospital worker, in a well-kept, four-story apartment building about 10 minutes from school. His parents are separated.

Bild newspaper published a photograph of an ordinary looking teenager with short hair in a dark shirt and smiling pleasantly. But the paper quoted a fellow pupil as saying he had a bad relationship with both parents.

Based on comments from former classmates, teachers and other people who knew Steinhaeuser, it appeared he had carefully planned the assault. Media reports said he had received a gun license just days before the attack.

Some who had known him for years said he had staged a mock execution of a teacher while on a class field trip to Berlin two years ago. Steinhaeuser called it a joke, but he received a severe reprimand for it.

"He pretended to make a pistol out of his hand and was full of hatred as he took aim at the teacher," said Cassandra Mehlhorn, 19.

"The teacher was extremely angry. Robert got a reprimand for that. (Robert) said he was just fooling around."

Mehlhorn told Bild newspaper she believed the teacher concerned was among those on Friday.

Police said Steinhaeuser had singled out teachers during his two-hour long rampage of execution-style shootings.

EXPELLED high school student Robert Steinhaeuser, here in an undated file photo, was allegedly bent on revenge and shot to death 14 teachers, two pupils, a police officer and himself.

"I never thought of him as a person capable of this," Thomas Rethfeldt, a classmate, told Reuters. "Some say he was picked on but if he was, it wasn't much. He was reserved. I never thought he was a person capable of violence.

"He was actually rather intelligent," Rethfeldt added. "But he didn't seem to care very much about school. There was nothing at all out of the ordinary about him."

Andreas Foerster, a biology and sports teacher, saw nothing unusual or extraordinary about him.

"He was a quiet and reasonable sort of guy."

He said Steinhaeuser was even rather timid in sports class.

"He was never among the more courageous in sport," Foerster said, adding that he had to give Steinhaeuser extra help with difficult gymnastics exercises.

"I see him before my eyes and I just cannot fathom that he would be capable of a crime like this."

"He was no bright spark," said one student who knew Steinhaeuser.

"He never caused much of a stir, but he wasn't completely withdrawn either. He just didn't have a lot of friends." ***Reuters***

From page A1

in Manila).

He charged into a room where students were taking a mathematics test and said: "I'm not going to write anything."

Then he started shooting.

Steinhaeuser pumped bullets into teachers he found in the corridors and classrooms as he stalked his victims throughout the upper floors of the early 20th century Jugendstil school building.

"We were sitting in class doing our work (when) we heard (shots)," said Filip Niemann, a student who survived the bloodbath. "We joked about it and the teacher smiled. The teacher let us go out and see what was happening."

"When we left the classroom, three to four meters in front of us was a masked person in black holding his gun at his shoulder," said Niemann, still visibly shocked and his voice trembling.

"He stretched out his gun and fired. We saw a teacher fall to the ground. We just turned and ran. I heard from other kids that the gunman opened classroom doors and aimed at teachers."

"Even if I believed in God, I would not believe in Him any more. How could He let something like this happen?" Niemann said.

'Help' and 'Why'

One of two police officers who arrived at the school after a janitor's phone call was shot dead.

About 700 students between the ages of 10 and 19 attend the Gutenberg high school. Some of them were trapped in classrooms for hours, too terrified to leave as Steinhaeuser roamed the halls.

A piece of paper reading "*Hilfe* (Help)" appeared on an upper floor window in the afternoon.

Later on Friday evening someone put up another sign reading "*Warum* (Why)?"

"It's just all so unbelievable," said Margaret Kamps, a librarian at the school who locked the door to the basement library after 25 sobbing students sought refuge.

"The children were shocked and many were weeping," she added.

"I locked the door and we tried to stay quiet. The police came after 90 minutes and got us out."

Police said there were bodies lying in hallways, classrooms and a toilet.

About half an hour after the shooting started, police commandos stormed the school and evacuated about 180 students. Steinhaeuser shot himself in a classroom where he had holed up, police said.

A number of students who escaped unharmed from the school said a second gunman had been in the school. Police said late on Friday they were investigating the reports and said they could not rule out the possibility a second assailant had escaped.

Police had found another 500 bullets stashed in a bathroom that they believed the assailant had planted and planned to use before killing himself.

Members of Steinhaeuser's family were still being questioned yesterday.

Statements made by his parents and a brother indicate that he was a member of a gun club and legally owned the weapons. ***(See related story on this page.)***

Germany stunned

The scale of the murder stunned Germans, who long felt they had some of the toughest gun-control laws in the world and were far removed from the type of wanton violence that has haunted the United States and Britain.

MOURNING at the cathedral of the medieval town of Erfurt in Germany where friends try to find comfort in one another. GETTY IMAGES

The death toll in Erfurt nearly matched that of the 1996 shooting at an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, where 16 children, a teacher and the gunman died.

Fifteen people, including two teenaged gunmen, died in the April 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in the United States.

It was Germany's second school shooting in two months. In February, a 22-year-old German who had recently lost his job shot and killed two former bosses and his former high school's principal in a rampage outside Munich.

Germany has tight gun control laws, but there are millions of illegal weapons in German homes, registered for use in sport and hunting or kept by collectors. There are 7.2 million firearms legally owned by 2.3 million people, including hunters, target shooters and people who have inherited weapons.

Two hours after the shooting in Erfurt, Germany's parliament approved a government proposal to further tighten already strict weapons laws. The proposal, which now goes to the upper house, requires a license to carry gas-powered and blank pistols, banned several kinds of knives completely and mandated separate storage of guns and ammunition.

Experts, however, say the country is awash with illegal weapons smuggled into the country from eastern Europe and the Balkans. ***Reuters, AFP, AP***

Fields of dream for GIs

From page A1

converging for rest and recreation.

Emerging from Clark in convoys of vans Monday night, US servicemen dressed in civvies and grouped in fives or sevens sauntered to the places of their choice.

Up to Teodoro Street, there are some options. Bars reign over the stretch, interspersed with karaoke joints, discos, restaurants and billiard halls.

Women chased after the Americans, held them tightly by the arms, and wheedled and cajoled them into entering their establishments.

Waitresses and "hospitality girls" snapped to attention as soon as a dozen or so Americans stepped into the newest bar. Strobe lights blinked and scantily clad women gyrated to throbbing music.

Close to midnight, quite a number of US soldiers with women in tow were still strolling around. There were two more hours to kill, after all, before the 2 a.m. R&R curfew.

At least 220 US servicemen flocked to Fields Monday night, according to Chief. Insp. Joselio Imperial, who supervises two stations near Clark.

Fields forever

Clark may have ceased to be a US military base in 1991, but it serves as a training camp for the large- and small-scale bilateral military exercises that resumed in 1999 under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

As in Clark's heyday as a base and even during the hiatus of the war games, Fields is still an R&R destination for visiting soldiers.

On Monday, at the opening of Balikatan 02-2, there were more than 1,500 US soldiers in Clark who were also expected at Fields.

The frequency with which US soldiers patronize this red-light district and the absence of an official ban by the Philippine government on visits to Fields or similar places in Olongapo City and Subic in Zambales—once the site of the US naval base—indicate that the R&R policy of the RP and US governments has not changed.

Even in recent exercises, R&R has always been an integral part of the troops' activities. It has never been cancelled, as far as Fields habitués can remember.

Reporters recall that in situations turned tense by the activities of communist insurgents, curfew hours were merely shortened or confined to selected, tightly secured establishments.

Liberty

The US military has another name for it: liberty.

But by whatever name and whatever form, off-duty hours revolve around Fields.

"Liberty is defined as (an) opportunity (for relaxation) for soldiers, sailors and airmen after they have worked the hard day with their counterparts doing the work of the military," said Maj. Kelvin Bledsoe, head of the Balikatan's joint information bureau at Clark.

"(They) go off the installation, the base, which is Clark, to have the opportunity to relax, see some of the culture, have something to eat, dine in a restaurant, help support the economy, just relax and enjoy themselves," he said.

Anti-bases activists such as Roland Simbulan, a professor at the University of the Philippines, have not succeeded in finding R&R rules in policy papers, even in documents obtained through the US Freedom of Information Act.

But these rules may be defined by where the troops go and what they do.

Fields itself was an outcome, if not an invention, of US military liberty hours.

In its editorial of July 11, 1956, the defunct Daily Mirror described Fields as a "honky-tonk district bigger than those of Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Cavite City combined."

Twelve years later, the late essayist Renato Tayag saw a "malaise" in the base that was "more difficult to define."

"Illicit sex, of course, is easier to get in Angeles than in any other Pampanga town," he wrote. "Striptease bare all, despite the (Catholic) Church's efforts to stop or at least tone down the rowdiest shows ... Vendo machines in toilets dispense prophylactics at three for a US quarter. Young half-breeds with kinky hair or blue eyes roam the streets, selling gum."

Nothing has changed.

Since Monday night, the US troops have been merrily sallying forth to Fields.

Even by day, they go off in threes aboard taxis, with full intent to party.

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Fistorama on RPN 9

SAN Miguel Beer's "Fistorama" on RPN 9 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. today features world rated Noel Tunacao against Flash Simbajon. Fistorama is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Tuñacao will face Rodolfo Lopez for the WBC Mini-Flyweight title sometime this year in the United States.

LOTTO 6/42

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30 41 9 35 22 33 Vis / Min

GOVERNORS CUP

Tigers book semis berth

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
5:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

ROSELLE Ellis and Ron Hale overpowered their Sta. Lucia Realty counterparts as Coca-Cola cruised to a 75-65 victory and a semifinal seat yesterday in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ellis and Hale finished with 26 points apiece as the Tigers ousted the defending champions.

The Tigers, who will face the winner of the Purefoods-Red Bull quarterfinal match in a best-of-five series in the semifinals, also exacted revenge on the Realtors, who escaped with an 87-86 squeaker during their lone encounter in the eliminations.

Victor Thomas and Mark Davis, on whose backs the Realtors rode, combined for only 31 points with Davis knocking in five of his pathetic 11-point output when the game was already beyond redemption.

They were so outclassed by the Hale-Ellis import blend that they found it hard to operate at a time the Realtors needed them most.

Ace playmaker Paolo Mendoza tried hard to keep the Realtors in the thick of the fight as he equaled Davis' output. Ellis and Ato Morano alternated in defending against the six-footer Mendoza, who delighted the crowd with his long shots and nifty passes.

Purefoods arranged a semifinal duel with Coca-Cola after beating Batang Red Bull, 82-77, later in the night.

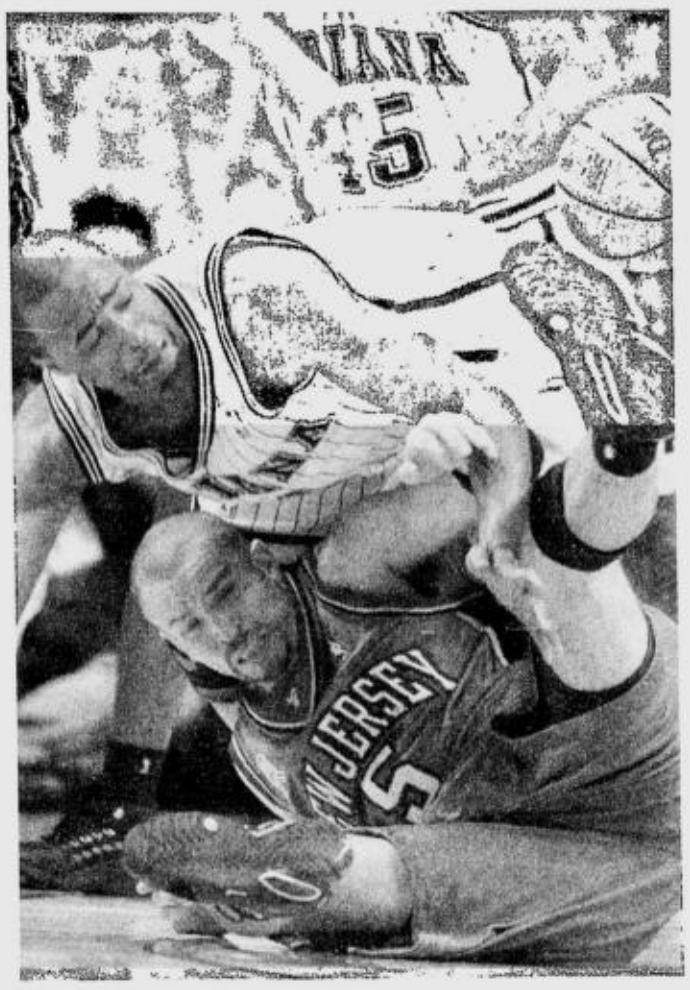
Derrick Brown scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half as the Hotdogs rallied from 13 points down and unleashed a 20-0 run en route to victory.

Scores

COCA-COLA 75—Ellis 26, Hale 26, Morano 12, Ballesteros 6, Antonio 3, Abuda 2, Avenido 0.

STA. LUCIA 65—Thomas 20, Davis 11, Mendoza 11, Ortiguerra 8, Falcasantos 6, Tan 5, Francisco 4, Belano 0.

Quarters: 25-14, 34-31, 52-47, 75-65.



NEW Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd (down on the floor) and Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley battle for a loose ball during their game yesterday in Indianapolis. The Nets won, 85-84. AP

Nets win after a Miller miss

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana's Reggie Miller missed a wide-open jumper at the buzzer as the New Jersey Nets edged the Pacers 85-84 on Friday to snatch a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Miller has built a career out of making big shots, especially in the playoffs. But he could not give the Pacers the series lead with what may have been the most wide-open jumper of his 15-year career.

Indiana had possession with less than a second remaining and inbounded to Miller, who was freed after Jason Kidd was caught on a screen.

Miller caught the ball just inside the three-point line and was five feet from any defender, but his shot did not even hit the rim.

He had drained a long three-pointer to give the Pacers an 83-82 lead with 34 seconds to go before Nets guard Kerry Kittles responded with a three-pointer 21 seconds later.

Jermaine O'Neal missed the second of two free throws for Indiana with three seconds remaining and New Jersey's Aaron Williams was fouled after pulling down the rebound.

Pangasinan exacts revenge against Olongapo

GAME TOMORROW (RMC Gym)
6 p.m.—Batangas vs Davao

OSAKA Pangasinan banked on the heads-up play of Chris Clay to exact revenge over Olongapo, 95-86, yesterday in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference at the CEU Centrodome in Malolos City.

Clay sizzled with 41 points as the Waves avenged their defeat, coincidentally by the same score (95-86) in their first meeting on April 18, and leveled their win-loss slate at 3-3.

The Volunteers dropped to 4-2, but stayed on top of the Northern Conference.

With Clay and Francis Aquino scoring 10 points each, the Waves held on to a 75-61 spread at the end of the third quarter and then thwarted the Volunteers' final charge to get back on track of their semifinals bid.

A 21-8 run sparked by Henry Fernandez and Johnedel Cardel towed Olongapo to within 83-82 midway of the fourth, but the Waves of Coach Lawrence Chongson held on to derail the Volunteers, who were cheered on by hundreds of supporters headed by Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon.

Coseteng, Mendiola drivers to watch at Grand Prix

JODY Coseteng of Globe-Autoplus-Caltex-Red Horse, Don Pastor of Team TEC and Patrick Mendiola of Beefeater will be the drivers to watch in the resumption of the SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway this weekend.

Coseteng, one of only two drivers to win back-to-back titles in local circuit racing, will seek another sweep in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category against a star-studded field which includes defending champion Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery and last year's runner-up Kookie Ramirez of Globe-Petron.

The 39-year-old campaigner from Manila, who bagged the overall titles in 1995 and 1996, steered his brand-new Honda Civic SIR to back-to-back victories over Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo in the opening rounds last April 14.

Anton is expected to redeem himself this time.

SPORTSWATCH

Gloria approves ₱46M for Palaro

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the P46-million funding for the Palarong Pambansa May 19-26 in Naga City. Pagcor will release P30 million from that fund next week. Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain likewise said yesterday he was giving P2 million to each delegation to the Palaro. The PSC chair also said several sponsors have pledged support for Palaro, particularly Air Philippines, WG&A Super Ferry and Philtranco which gave discounts to the participants.

Dagupan spices fiesta with slugfest

THE REVICON Boxing Challenge will be held on May 1 in Dagupan City as part of the city-wide fiesta celebration. Dubbed as "Bakbakan sa Pista'y Dayat 2002," the event features boxing teams from Dagupan and La Union. Two matches will feature lady boxers—Dagupan's flyweight Alell de Leon and Josephine Mararac against their La Union counterparts, Joana Paulo Acasio and Rona Refuerzo. "This is part of our program to have our local boxers make it to the national team," said lawyer Liberato Reyna, executive vice president of Abap and regional president for Northern Luzon.

Enervon netfest draws big field

A BIG field of 18-and-under tennis players is expected to participate in the Enervon International Tennis Junior Tennis Challenge from April 29 to May 4 at the Rizal Memorial tennis courts. Originally intended to be an international tournament with junior tennis players from neighboring countries, the Category 1 tournament however has been limited to mostly local players. Entries will come from Davao and Cagayan de oro in Mindanao, Cebu and Bacolod in the Visayas, and from Pampanga, Laguna, Cavite and Metro Manila. "Enervon is proud to be the major sponsor of this event," said Dennis Dizon, product manager of Enervon.

Kalibo hosts Bear Brand kitefest

KALIBO in Aklan will be the host tomorrow of the ninth and penultimate leg of the Bear Brand Kitefest 2002, the biggest kite-flying competition in the country. Venue of the one-day event organized by Nestlé Phils. Inc. is the Roxas Memorial College of Arts and Trade (RMCAT). "As in the previous legs, we expect hundreds of kite-flying enthusiasts to come and participate in the competition," said Leslie Noble, vice president for events of Publicis AMA. Assisting Noble is local coordinator Benny Tirrazona.

Zoleta sisters top Hilado Cup

ZOLETA sisters Bien and Bambi Zoleta of Mary Hill College in Lucena City won two titles each yesterday in the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Bien won the girls' 18-under title over Cebuano Melody Barraquias, 6-2, 6-0, and annexed the 16-under crown following a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Ivy de Castro. Bambi captured the 14-under after posting a 6-0, 6-2 win Agra and later took the 12-under title via 6-1, 6-3 decision over Agra. The boys' 21-under trophy went to Cebuano Maclean Barraquias, who scored a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Ian de Guzman.

Locals up against tough Sri Lankans

LOCAL athletes will have their hands full against their counterparts coming from Sri Lanka when the Milo national open and invitational track and field championships-Gov. Sering Cup unreels May 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial track oval. Athletics chief Go Teng Kok said Sri Lanka has beefed up its team in preparation for the Asian Amateur Athletics Association championships in August. *M.A. Reyes*

18 jungolfers compete in Taipei

EIGHTEEN jungolfers led by reigning Class B champion Judson Eustaquio left yesterday for Taipei via Philippine Airlines to compete in the 24th Asia-Pacific junior golf championships next week. Officials of the delegation include Amalia Montecillo, Merwin Mediana, Vince Villafuerte, Gerry Handog, Sonny Yee and Antonio Sotelo. Eustaquio is one of the brightest prospects of the team. The other players to watch out are Michael Bibat, Carl Santos Ocampo and Jayvee Agojo.

RP fencing champion

THE PHILIPPINES has captured the overall crown of the sixth Southeast Asian Fencing Championships after four more gold medals were won by a crack RP team Wednesday and Thursday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Walbert Mendoza and Leny Reyes grabbed the men's and women's saber gold medals Wednesday, a feat the RP foil teams duplicated a day later to raise to the country's haul to an unreachable eight gold medals in the tournament participated in by six countries.

The men's foil team of Emerson Segui, Rolando Canlas and brothers Ramil and Rufelino Endriano made the opposition wilt throughout the tournament on their way to the gold medal.

The women's squad of Lenny Reyes, who already has three golds to her name in the tournament, Veena Nustro, Melly Joy Angeles and Lorraine San Diego refused to be left out and did the same gold medal-winning stint in women's foil.

"A team that has prepared long and hard and one that has the heart and determination to triumph will be one that would produce results. And this is the result," said Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee who once headed the Philippine Amateur Fencing Association.

Subic triathlon slated June 2

WORLD No. 14 Kris Gemmel of New Zealand, along with 1999 Subic champion Csaba Kuttor (No. 37 in the world) of Hungary and Canadian Julien Periard, are the main challengers of defending champion Lee Chi Wo of Hong Kong in the 9th Subic Bay International Triathlon on June 2.

Nicole Hacket, last year's female winner, is not expected to return due to a heavy schedule in the world cup races, but the lady to watch is Hong Kong sensation Claire Murray, who is on a winning streak after copping the 1st Asian Aquathlon Championships in March and the Uni-President Triathlon cup in Chinese-Taipei.

The event is sponsored by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Speedo, Asia-Pacific Insulation, POC and the PSC.

Entry forms are available at the TRAP offices at Room 202 Bldg. Alpha, Philsports Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City and in all Speedo Concept Stores around the country.

For inquiries, call 0917-4217913, 09168421114, 09179116842 and 0916449789.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Jay Chan shot a one-under par 71 to post a four-stroke victory and bag the Class B plum in the Nissan-RPGA national junior championship at Capitol Hills course.

Kamayan Kid

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE SPORT of fishing is not that popular here. I could be wrong. But fancy this. The Philippine Game Fishing Association has been around 62 years. Which could only mean one thing: game fishing seems inherent in us.

Surprised? Not me.

Our country is supposed to have the longest shoreline in the world. Our more than 7,000 islands are connected by two famous bodies of water. When you go to Bicol from Manila, at your right is the China Sea and at your left is the Pacific Ocean. Both harbor some of the world's most unique marine life.

Maybe, many of you don't know that Vic Vic Villavicencio, the Kamayan Kid who invented the eat-all-you-can phenomenon, is one of the country's top anglers for years now. An angler, in layman's term, is one who indulges in game fishing.

Vic Vic has mastered the exact locations of where our fishing grounds are in astonishing fashion so that he can flick in seconds the places where coral reefs are either dead or alive. The fiftyish Vic Vic has been combing our seas since the Seventies and, together with his fellow accomplished anglers like Benjie Toda and Rey Buencamino, has now become an ardent crusader for the protection of our marine life.

"It saddens me really to find many places in our country to be the brutal targets of dynamite fishing," Vic Vic says. "Our fish sanctuaries are being destroyed left and right. I hope the authorities will finally start paying attention to this modern-day cancer."

As president of the Philippine Game Fishing Association, Rey Buencamino has resolved to intensify their crusade against dynamite fishing.

Benjie Toda will explode at the mere mention of fishermen using dynamite.

"Those bombers are merciless and must be driven to hell," says Benjie, whose beard of one-and-a-half years makes him look more like a sage than a sea buff. "If dynamite fishing is not stopped now, we'll have no more fish after 10 years."

Vic Vic and Benjie go a long way, their friendship cemented by their love for the sport of fishing. Some years back, Vic Vic built a house in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, facing the sea. Sta. Cruz is Benjie's own turf; his family owns a beautiful island there. Soon after Vic Vic inaugurated his house, he discovered bums "bombing the waters" of Zambales.

"He helped me drive them away," says Benjie.

Vic Vic has sold his Sta. Cruz hideaway. He now spends most of his free time in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, where his enchanting one-hectare Balinese house faces the fish-rich San Vicente waters off Baua Point not far from Fuga Island.

Over at Vic Vic's present playground, there is a Sailfish Alley and a Marlin Avenue. There's also a Dorado Boulevard.

But more about those later. See you around.

Sports nears cage crown

By Dennis U. Eroa

HIGH-SCORING Dayong Mendoza hit his first seven attempts from the three-point zone and his teammates responded in superb fashion as Sports downed Libre, 105-77, moving to within a win of topping the INQUIRER basketball championship yesterday at the Olympia Gym in Makati City.

Mendoza went on to fire a record 10 triples en route to a tournament high 49 points, a performance enough to zap the strength out of the Libre dribblers.

Sports guns for its first ever title in five years when coach Al Mendoza's charges battle Libre in Game Two on May 4 at the same venue. .

Playing with only seven men, Sports raced to an early 29-17 lead and padded it to 50-24 at halftime. Jake de los Reyes gave Sports its biggest lead, 76-36, in the third period.

Arnold Galimba, Rollie Abad and Jim Guiao Punzalan clogged the shaded area, making life difficult for Libre slotman Ritchie Sabado.

Eric Arazas topscored for Libre with 30.

Scores:

SPORTS 105—Mendoza 49, De los Reyes 20, Punzalan 13, Navarro 11, Galimba 5, Mangulat 4, Abad 3.

LIBRE 77—Arazas 30, Ruiz 14, Sumbeling 9, Castillo 8, Cuya 7, Sabado 5, Alejandrino 2, Rago 2.

Halftime: 50-24

Torre beats Roca

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre bested National Master Petronio Roca in 20 moves of a Trompovsky Opening yesterday to share the early lead in the grand finals of the National Chess Championship at the All Asia Capital Center, Paseo de Roxas,Makati City.

IM Mark Paragua also chalked the full point at the expense of NM Yves Ranola in 46 moves, tying Torre and NM Elmer Sumngat, who downed untitled Melvin Merelos after 43 moves.

SPORTSWATCH

Larrauri cops Futbol Cup

ATHLETIC De Larrauri stunned top seed Real Deportivo Garcia by winning 2-of-3 grueling games (0-1, 4-3 and 2-1) in last Sunday's Family Futbol Cup. The Larrauri Reds, led by team captain Migs Larrauri and keeper Ton, held off relentless offensives by the RDG strikers. Midfielder Dong Longa led attackers Jonathan Henson and Andoni Santos in setting the tone for the Larrauri win.

UST-Adamson final today

UST and Adamson tangle at 3 p.m. today in the Hardcourt Misses Women's Summer Basketball Series 2002 final at the SM Megamall Atrium A. UST beat College of St. Benilde, 30-22, while Adamson nipped Lyceum, 25-24, in the semifinals. The other entries in the 4-on-4 competition were UE, College of the Holy Spirit, Miriam College, UP, Ateneo de Manila University and FEU. The awarding ceremonies will be hosted by Gameplan's Rovilson Fernandez with Samboy Lim as special guest.

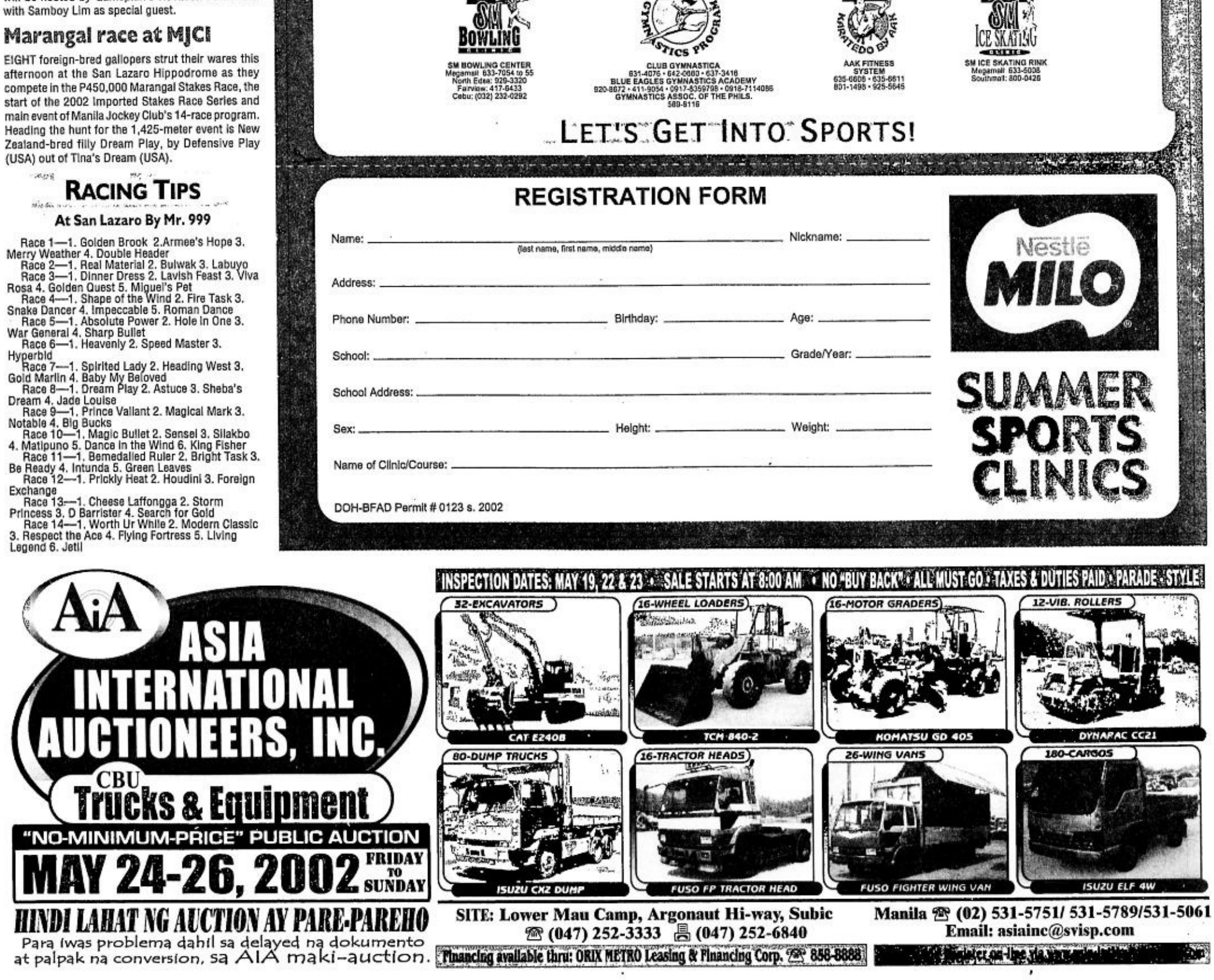
Marangal race at MJCI

EIGHT foreign-bred gallopers strut their wares this afternoon at the San Lazaro Hippodrome as they compete in the P450,000 Marangal Stakes Race, the start of the 2002 Imported Stakes Race Series and main event of Manila Jockey Club's 14-race program. Heading the hunt for the 1,425-meter event is New Zealand-bred filly Dream Play, by Defensive Play (USA) out of Tina's Dream (USA).

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Golden Brook 2.Armee's Hope 3. Merry Weather 4. Double Header
Race 2—1. Real Material 2. Bulwak 3. Labuyo
Race 3—1. Dinner Dress 2. Lavish Feast 3. Viva Rosa 4. Golden Quest 5. Miguel's Pet
Race 4—1. Shape of the Wind 2. Fire Task 3. Snake Dancer 4. Impeccable 5. Roman Dance
Race 5—1. Absolute Power 2. Hole In One 3. War General 4. Sharp Bullet
Race 6—1. Heavenly 2. Speed Master 3. Hyperbid
Race 7—1. Spirited Lady 2. Heading West 3. Gold Marlin 4. Baby My Beloved
Race 8—1. Dream Play 2. Astuce 3. Sheba's Dream 4. Jade Louise
Race 9—1. Prince Valiant 2. Magical Mark 3. Notable 4. Big Bucks
Race 10—1. Magic Bullet 2. Sensei 3. Silakbo 4. Matipuno 5. Dance In the Wind 6. King Fisher
Race 11—1. Bemedalled Ruler 2. Bright Task 3. Be Ready 4. Intunda 5. Green Leaves
Race 12—1. Prickly Heat 2. Houdini 3. Foreign Exchange
Race 13—1. Cheese Laffongga 2. Storm Princess 3. D Barrister 4. Search for Gold
Race 14—1. Worth Ur While 2. Modern Classic 3. Respect the Ace 4. Flying Fortress 5. Living Legend 6. Jetil



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Fifth Weekly Draw	MAY 21, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Sixth Weekly Draw	MAY 28, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Seventh Weekly Draw	JUNE 4, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Eighth Weekly Draw	JUNE 11, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Ninth Weekly Draw	JUNE 18, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
First Monthly Draw	MAY 14, 2002	₱25,000
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GRAND DRAW	JUNE 18, 2002	₱200, 000

Note: Cut-off time is 12 midnight of every Sunday prior to the draw date.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

QC jail guards 'floating'

QUEZON City jail guards JO1 Eduardo Guzman and JO1 Eugene Aplado were relieved of their posts by jail warden Supt. Primitivo Benitez for allegedly allowing inmate Renato Aguilar to escape at dawn Tuesday. Guzman and Aplado were placed in "floating" status at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) national office during investigation. *Agnes E. Donato*

Crackdown on counterfeiters

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents seized P300,000 worth of fake Time-Warner Bros. products during raids on RG Creation in Marikina, Gain Marketing in Quezon City, IS 18 General Merchandising in Manila, and Aspen Paper Products Corp. in Caloocan last week. The owners will be charged with violating the Intellectual Property Rights Law. *Jerome Aning*

10,000 cops around Malacañang

MANILA police in Rizal Park exercise in preparation for deployment. JESS YUSON

By Jerome Aning

THE WESTERN Police District will deploy some 10,000 anti-riot and civil disturbance policemen on Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge and other points leading to Malacañang in anticipation of "unannounced rallies" by supporters of deposed President Estrada on May 1.

Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., WPD director, said the deployment will start this afternoon. The augmentation forces will come from units of the National Capital Regional Police Office and other PNP stations in nearby regions.

Estrada's supporters are expected to mark the bloody Palace siege on May 1, 2001, dubbed "Edsa Tres."

Pasinos said police are on the lookout particularly for members of the pro-Estrada group Peoples Movement Against Poverty, an urban poor group whose fugitive leader, Ronald Lumbao, was arrested last Thursday.

Walls in the vicinity of the presidential palace have been spray-painted with anti-government slogans such as "*Palayain si* Lumbao (Free Lumbao)," and "*Sabwatang elitista*-Arroyo (Elite-Arroyo conspiracy)."

Pasinos said that aside from the augmentation forces which will be guarding Malacañang's vicinity, 3,000 more men will be sent to defend and secure "critical areas" in the city, such as the US Embassy and the Pandacan oil depot.

Armored personnel carriers and fire trucks have also been placed in "ready reserve" to deal with violent protesters, he said.

Security has been beefed up on JP Laurel Street leading to the palace, with members of the Presidential Security Group and police motorcycles parked at Malacañang's Gate 7.

PMAP and other pro-Estrada groups are scheduled to kick off their activities by marching to Chino Roces in the morning of May 1, from assembly points in Sta. Mesa and Morayta.

PMAP spokesman Albert Obina earlier assured the public that their program would be peaceful.

Militant labor groups are scheduled to hold their own programs on the bridge in the afternoon and evening. There are also activities at the Liwasang Bonifacio and Rizal Park.

Isafp man charged with flyover slay

By Philip Tubeza

MANILA police on Friday charged with murder a member of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the killing of a Nestlé engineer on the Nagtahan flyover on April 6.

T/Sgt. Dominador Q. Sahagun, of the Philippine Army and of AFP Housing in Pandacan, Manila, was charged before the Manila Prosecutor's Office for the death of Francisco Philip Bautista, 40, a reserve officer in the Philippine Marines and an engineer of the Nestlé plant on Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, said Detective Athos Lim de Quiros of the Western Police District homicide section.

Sahagun allegedly shot dead Bautista during a traffic quarrel on the Nagtahan flyover about 7:30 p.m. on April 6.

Sahagun surrendered to his superiors in Camp Aguinaldo right after the shooting. He said he fired on Bautista because the latter had a gun aimed at him.

Police investigation showed that Bautista was driving his dark green Honda Civic ESI (WAR-885) on the southbound lane of the flyover when he was shot. He lost control of his car and hit the rear of an R&E taxi, which hit another Honda Civic (TCT-298) which in turn rammed into a Toyota Corolla XL (ULC-725).

In a letter to Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus, Air Force Capt. Rellie V. Francisco, an Isafp security officer, said Sahagun admitted to firing his .45-caliber pistol in Bautista's direction.

Sahagun told his officers that when he was driving his jeep (TBS-612) on the southbound lane of the flyover, Bautista "aggressively cut into his path several times." He said Bautista had his gun drawn.

He said Bautista cursed him and shouted if he was "a cop." Sahagun said he stepped on the gas and tried to avoid Bautista's car but Bautista drove after him and aimed his gun at him.

Sahagun said he was forced to "fire once" at the rear right side of Bautista's car before he drove to the Isafp headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, to surrender to his superiors.

Policemen found Bautista still alive and holding a .45-caliber pistol in his right hand. They took him to the De Ocampo Memorial Clinic where he died of a gunshot wound in the left armpit.

Isafp officers surrendered Sahagun's pistol to police. They also promised to turn over Sahagun's jeep to investigators if it would be needed.

Youth's killing prompts drive vs street gangs

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Friday ordered a crackdown on street gangs and other youth fraternities roaming the city following the death of a 23-year-old man in Sampaloc last Thursday.

Atienza told the Western Police District to round up the members of the Temple Street and True Brown Style gangs who were involved in the killing of Joydan Villegas, as well as all other fraternities engaged in violence in the capital.

Villegas was drinking with friends on Norma Street when Temple Street members, who allegedly mistook him for a TBS member, shot him, according to police.

Police said the two gangs engage in street riots almost every night in the area.

Atienza told WPD director Chief Sup. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. and Sampaloc police commander Supt. Amador Pabustan to assign more police patrols in the area to prevent further clashes.

Jerome Aning

Kidnapped boy found dead in Norzagaray

THE BODY of a 6-year-old boy who was kidnapped earlier this month was found Friday in a ravine in Norzagaray, Bulacan, police said yesterday.

Takeshi Adachi, whose father was a Japanese, was snatched April 19 in Santa Rosa, Laguna, where he lived with his Filipino mother. Police said his kidnappers had sought a ransom of P3 million.

Police said they believed a five-member kidnapping group was responsible. An autopsy was to be conducted to determine the cause of death. *AP*

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Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
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11	CLOSED
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1	I AM SAM
2	ROLLERBALL
3	SCORPION KING
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	SNOW DOGS
6	SHOWTIME
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	SCORPION KING
2	E.T.
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	I AM SAM
5	ROLLERBALL
6	E.T.
7	S2PID LUV
8	SHOWTIME

Imus
471 - 8188 / 875- 3838

1	SCORPION KING
2	CROSSROAD
3	ROLLERBALL
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	I AM SAM
6	S2PID LUV

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	SCORPION KING
2	CROSSROADS
3	ICE AGE
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	S2PID LUV
6	MIMIC 2

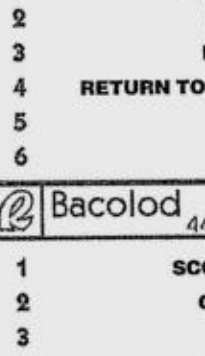
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	SCORPION KING
2	BLADE 2
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	TIME MACHINE
5	BLOW DRY
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
2	SCORPION KING
3	MONTE CRISTO
4	SHOWTIME
5	RIPPER
6	

malabon citisquare- soon to open.



Late Night Screening
on
April 26 & 27, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

FPJ's significant achievement

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE glad that the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino have chosen **Fernando Poe Jr.** as this year's recipient of the Urian awards' lifetime achievement honor. To some viewers, FPJ is "just" the King of Filipino Movies. But others know that, although Poe *is* a screen superstar, his more significant achievements have been in the fields of directing and producing.

For decades now, we have sung Poe's praises for his impressive work as director under the "nom de direction" of **Ronwaldo Reyes**. We remember with particular delight his early film, "Tatlong Hari," a sensitive, memorable and felt dramatization of the deep friendship between three men, from childhood onward.

FPJ is also to be praised for his foresight as a producer in taking good care of his films, so that they continue to be shown (on TV) to this day, decades after they were first filmed.

Most other producers have cavalierly allowed their products to deteriorate, depriving succeeding generations of a big part of their cinematic patrimony.

Poe is similarly to be commended for his interest in film education, which he supports with grants for various workshops, particularly in screenwriting.

These and other achievements make him a true leader of the local film industry, and much more than just a bankable star since the 1950s.

It's great that he's getting recognized by the Manunuri because this serves as proof that you don't have to be "arteestic" to do good work in Philippine cinema. FPJ is the most consistently popular star we have, and yet some of his achievements have been truly significant.

We hope that "Ronwaldo Reyes" directs a film again this year—and may it be the best he's ever done. What do you say, Ronnie?

Winners all

LAST April 21's edition of "K—The Videoke Challenge" was particularly viewable, thanks to the participation of **Tirso Cruz III**, **Princiess Punzalan** and **Sharmaine Arnaiz**.

The three stars were the night's "survivors," after the other celebrity contestants had been sequentially zapped to oblivion by the show's panel of "hanging judges."

The three survivors impressed viewers with their wide-ranging familiarity with songs of different musical genres. Even when they didn't know the songs, they had the knack for guessing the right lyrics—well, most of the time!

Sharmaine did pretty much as well as the other two, but the show's final round had room for only two finalists, so she had to go.

When Pip and Princess squared off, it soon became clear that his more extensive experience as a singer would pay off in heaps for him.

After he won their face-off, he had to decide whether he would risk everything to double his winnings in the jackpot round. Luckily for him, he knew the jackpot song through and through, and went home grinning, with P230,000 in his pocket. Not bad for a videoke night out with the gang!

Princess and Sharmaine were also winners in our book because they were both knowledgeable and entertaining. They put on quite a diverting show with their nervous reactions, delighting game show host **Arnell Ignacio**, who knew he had a particularly good set of contestants that night, and played them off against each other for all the musical fun they were worth.

Piano concertos

THE PASIG Music Festival ends at 5 p.m. today, April 28, at the Pasig Museum with a performance of two of the world's best-loved piano concertos, Beethoven's Piano concerto No. 5 in E flat Major Op. 73 ("The Emperor") and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor Op. 23.

Featured soloist is **Ingrid Sala Santamaria**, with **Jonathan Coo** on the second piano. Call 643-7428.

Maestro Filipino concert

THE FIFTH Maestro Filipino concert of dzFE at 7:30 p.m. on April 30 at the Philamlife Theater on UN ave. will showcase the artistry of violinist **Gilopez Kabayao** and his wife, pianist **Corazon Pineda-Kabayao**.

Maestro Filipino is a series of concerts aimed at raising funds for the radio station's efforts to record the works of Filipino classical artists and making them available to the public.

As a non-commercial, non-profit network, the Far East Broadcasting Company, the umbrella network of dzFE, relies solely on donations and sponsorships to sustain its operations. Hence, we hope that you will patronize its fundraising concerts. Call 292-5603, local 112.

Movies on HBO

SOME promising movies are showing this May on the HBO channel. Look out for:

Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 a.m., "Picnic." Thursday, May 2 at 4 p.m., "I Dreamed of Africa: A True Story." Friday, May 3 at 12:30 a.m., "Sex and the City" Special—Episode 46, "Frenemies;" 47, "What Goes Around, Comes Around;" 48, "Cock A Doodle Do!"

Saturday, May 4 at 3:30 p.m., "Scent of A Woman." Sunday, May 5 at 8 p.m., "The Patriot."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ROLLERBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEVIL'S MASK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I AM SAM
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HALIK SA LUPA / SUGAR AND SPICE
ODEON	SCORPION KING
ODEON-2	ITLOG
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	SCORPION KING

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SCORPION KING
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	PISTOLERO

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	E.T.
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-4	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-5	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-6	I AM SAM

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City · Tel. Nos. 8981-440-41 · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15	SCORPION KING- P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	RETURN TO NEVERLAND - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
ROLLERBALL - R 18 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	SHOWTIME - P 13 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	I AM SAM - GP 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SECOND WEEK!
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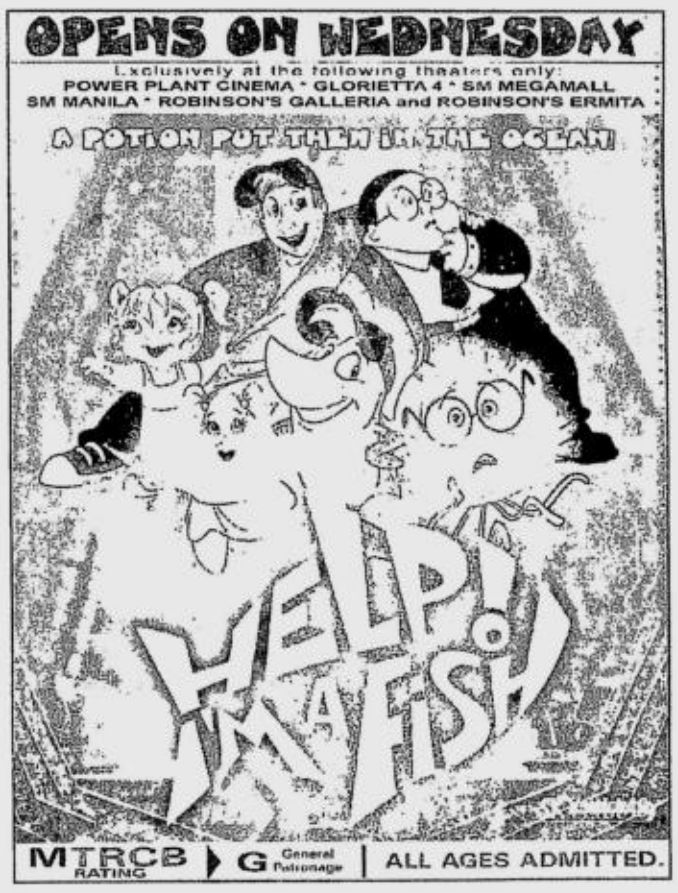

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  Note: Starts on May 1, 2002
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  Note: Credit card transactions are subject to bank approval

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see print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0581, Series of 2002

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see print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0519, Series of 2002

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SM Fairview (*LGIF in front of SM ACI*)
SM Megamall (*5/F-TSI, 2/F Bridgeway and 2/F Bldg. A Activity Center*)
SM North EDSA (*UGIF Entrance 5 bet. Watson's and Goldilocks; UGIF City Center Westmall, SM ACI side*)
SM Manila (*LGIF Centermall beside East stairway*)
SM Sucat (*GIF bet. Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo*)
SM Southmall (*UGIF bet. Kickers & La Pagaya*)
SM Centerpoint (*UGIF Centermall, Delifrance side*)
Robinsons Galleria (*Level 1, EDSA Nade*)
Robinsons Place Manila (*Level 1, bet. Red Ribbon and Delifrance*)

LUZON:
Robinsons Place, Imus (*1/L, Activity Area*)
SM Pampanga (*GIF in front of Kenny Rogers*)
SM Bacoor (*UGIF Centermall bet. Pizza Hut and French Baker*)

VISAYAS:
SM Cebu (*LGIF near Supermarket*)
SM Iloilo (*UGIF West Wing bet. National Bookstore and Watson's*)

MINDANAO:
SM Davao (*GIF, Atrium in front of Pizza Hut*)

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*Promo period is from April 1 to May 31, 2002

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-221 Series of 2002

Kristine revives 'sparkling' ad campaign

DO you recall the well-known Hapee ad campaign during the '80s—"Ngiting—popularized by charmer Ruffa Gutierrez?

Today, the Hapee smile has been "revived" by the fresh new stunner, Kristine Hermosa of "Pangako Sa 'Yo" fame.

Cecilio K. Pedro, president and CEO of Lamoiyan Corp., approves of Kristine as the newest endorser for Hapee Sparkling Gel, under Lamoiyan Corporation.

Pedro believes Kristine embodies the perfect image of a refreshing and exciting, simple, yet sophisticated young adult for Hapee.

Kristine's smile sparkles with the help of Hapee Sparkling Gels, available in red and green variants with improved mint flavor for fresher breath and maximum fluoride protection, shielding one's teeth against harmful cavities.

HERMOSA. New endorser of Hapee toothpaste.

Although she's only 18, Kristine is already a veteran in the industry, having made her TV debut at 13. Being in show business was initially difficult, however, Kristine learned to enjoy the challenge of meeting and working closely with a variety of people on a daily basis.

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Bakbakan na!

Hot movie on new 'bloodsport' from the director of 'Die Hard'

High-octane action director John McTiernan (DIE HARD) presents a hot new movie packed with head-slamming action, breakneck speed and visceral thrills, in Columbia Pictures' ROLLERBALL.

In 2005, a violent game is the world's #1 phenomenon. Watched by the entire world, Rollerball is an extreme blood sport played with motorbikes, skates, a figure 8 track, a steel ball -- and no rules.

But the world's most dangerous game is about to become deadly. When serious on-court accidents bring higher viewer ratings, the players soon find themselves playing for their lives!

Stars Chris Klein of AMERICAN PIE, LL Cool J, and the incredibly sexy Rebecca Romijn Stamos.

NOW SHOWING

Hosting seminar

FOR INDIVIDUALS who want to discover and develop their emceeing and hosting skills, there is an "Emceeing and Hosting Lab," a three-day seminar-workshop, on May 4, 5 and 6, with other dates on May 18, 19 and 20, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Santan Room of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The seminar-workshop will be highlighted on the third day with the participants doing actual emceeing and hosting of a musical-variety show in a music lounge.

Butch Albarracin, leading trainer-educator in pop music and entertainment, will conduct the seminar.

Albarracin is the founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first and largest training school for talent development.

The "Emceeing and Hosting Lab" is organized by the Learning Access (Learnax), a new division of the Center for Pop Music Philippines located at 73 Ermin Garcia st., Cubao, Quezon City. Call 723-9373 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

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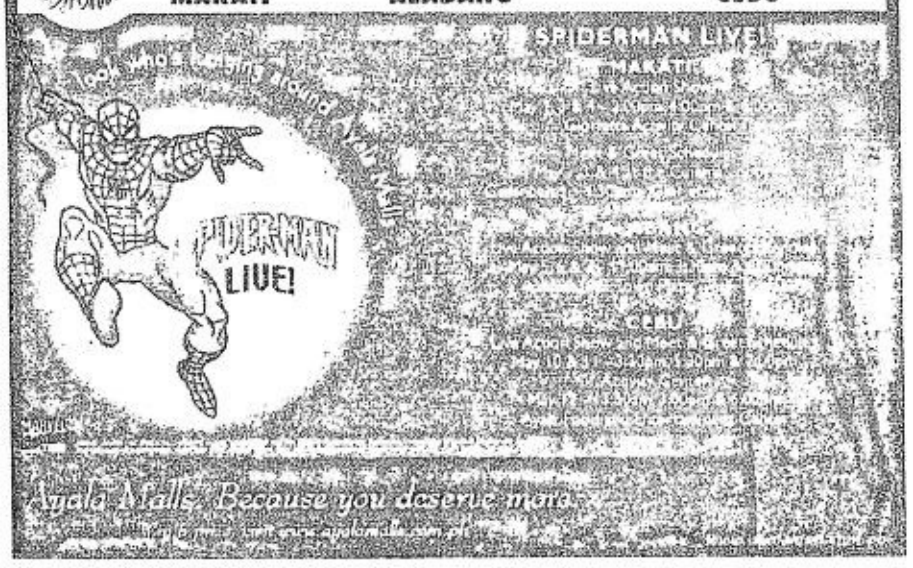
G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND	4 SNOW DOGS	1 BEFORE NIGHT FALLS	1 SCORPION KING
2 I AM SAM	2 SCORPION KING	5 ROLLER BALL	2 SCORPION KING	2 I AM SAM
3 ROLLER BALL	3 SCORPION KING 12:05 pm/ 2:10/ 4:15/ 6:20/ 8:25/ 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 I AM SAM	3 I AM SAM	3 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 SCORPION KING		7 SHOWTIME	4 Onstage	4 SCORPION KING
				5 ROLLER BALL

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



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CINEMA 1: SCORPION KING 12:35, 2:35, 4:35, 6:35, 8:35, 10:35 P13
CINEMA 2: I AM SAM 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 GP
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating)
Reserved Seating: P120.00, After 5:00pm Saturday, Sunday, Holidays
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MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM MAY 4, 2002 (ALLAN K.) K NA K KA NA BA? REPEAT 9:00 PM / MAY 11 REGINE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM
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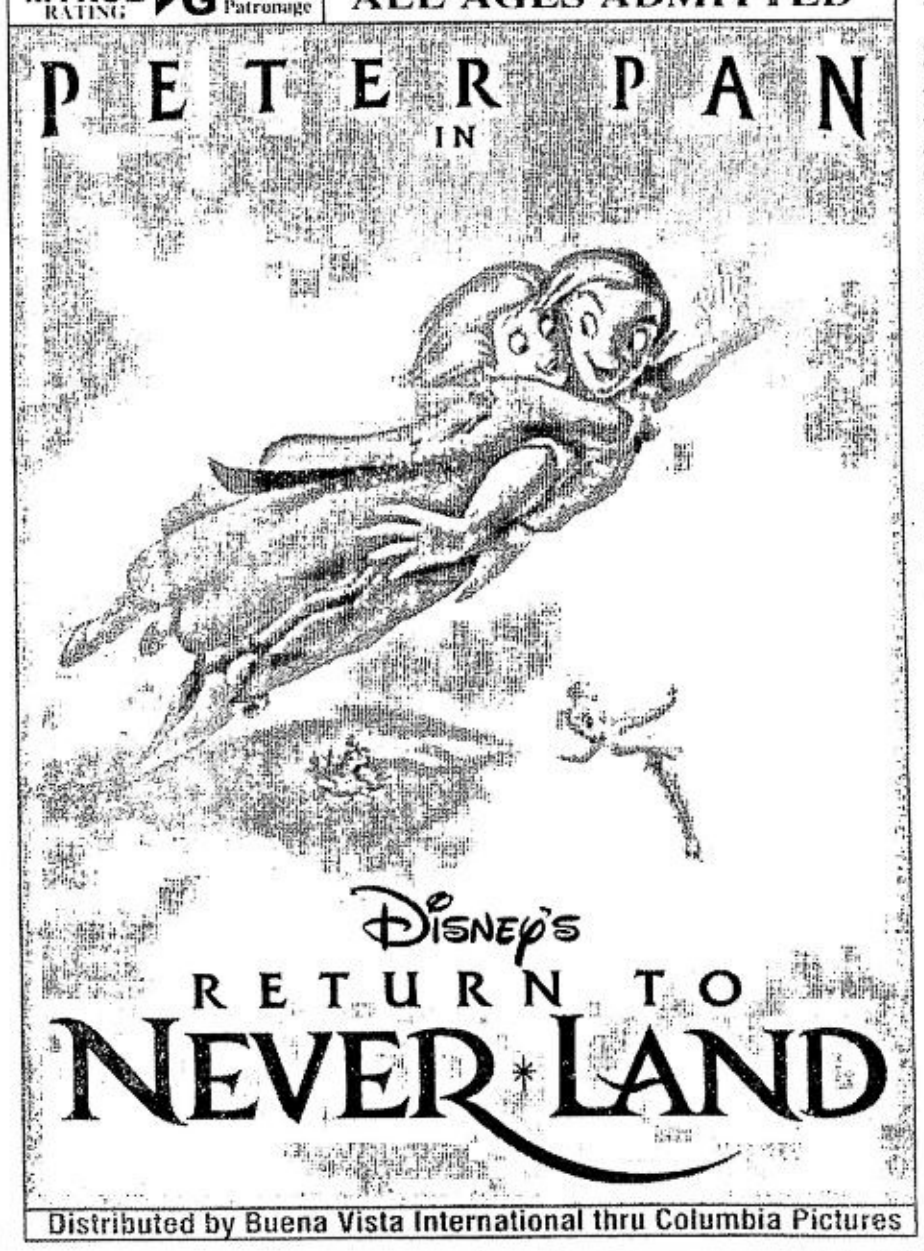
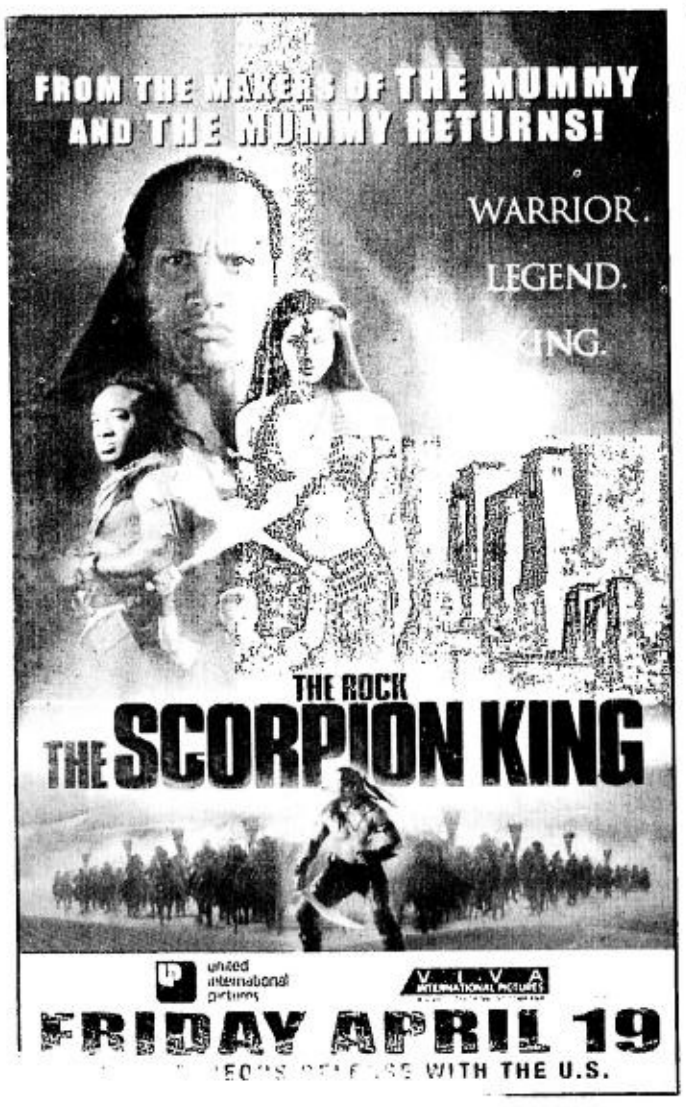
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED

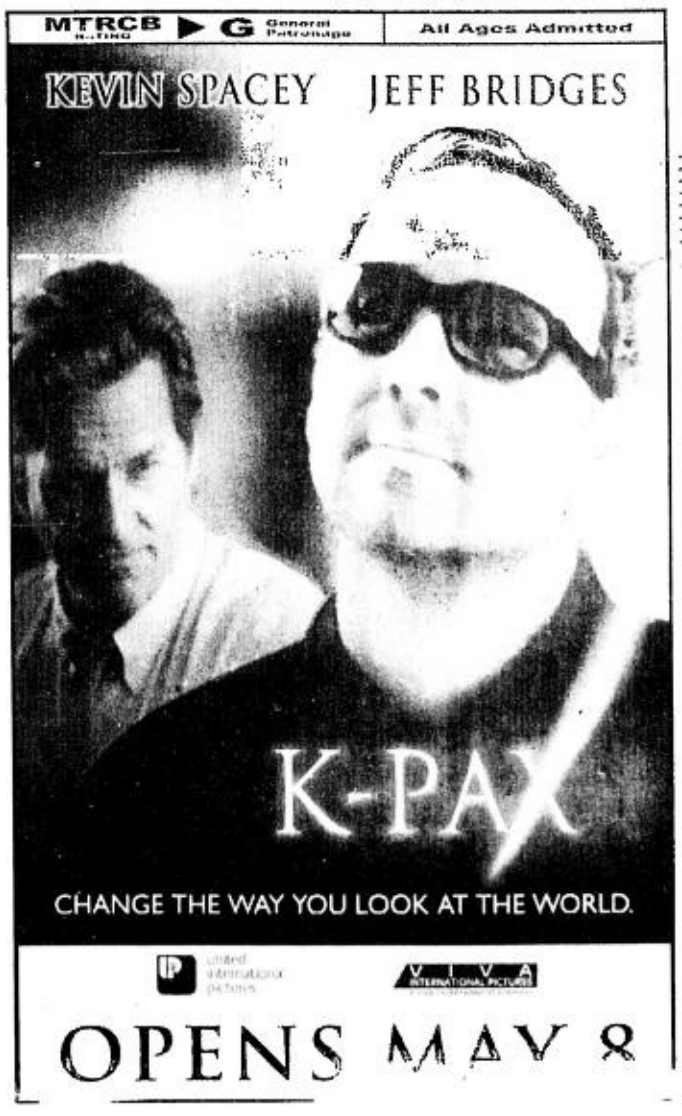


Disney's
RETURN TO NEVER LAND
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED



MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
All Ages Admitted



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Regine, Legrand to pick songs for her all-Legrand album

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN it was announced early this year that **Regine Velasquez** would record an album of **Michel Legrand** songs, skeptics dismissed it as a mere "press release" for a project that they predicted would never materialize.

But as early as February, when Legrand came to Manila to perform in a two-night Valentine show, the deal was already sealed.

Today, Regine will leave for an eight-day trip to Paris, where she will meet with Legrand to choose the songs that will be included in her forthcoming album.

Legrand will fly to Paris from Sweden, where he is now based. The pianist-composer has his library of songs in the French capital.

Regine had an advance party to Paris composed of Maxi-Media International executives **Felix Co, Jeffrey Cal, Maryann Gomez** and **Rico Mortel**, who left Friday night, like Regine via Air France, which flies non-stop from Manila to Paris.

Maxi-Media, which produced Legrand's successful Valentine concerts at the PICC, will also produce the album. It will be the initial offering of Maxi Records but it will be distributed by Viva Records, Regine's recording label.

Regine will be accompanied by her father *Mang* **Gerry** and her manager **Patty Mayoralgo**. In Paris, Regine will also do a pictorial for her album cover and publicity stills.

Maxi-Media is reportedly spending P15 million to produce the album, which they also hope to distribute in the international market. After the Manila launch late this year, the album will also be distributed in the Asian market.

Maryann said they hope to achieve double platinum status (80,000 units sold) at least to break even.

We heard that Viva big boss **Vic del Rosario** did not agree to shoulder even just half the production cost, but agreed to distribute the album.

In the album, similar to what singer **Laura Fygi** did, Regine will record the Legrand classics but will also sing Legrand's original compositions. Regine will work with the sound and audio engineer who worked on **Barbra Streisand** albums.

For sure, the "Regine Sings Legrand" album will contain Regine's favorite Legrand tune, "No Matter What Happens."

The two met in Manila last February, when Regine didn't mind auditioning before the illustrious composer.

Legrand will return to Manila in July, when he and Regine will start recording for the album. They might also go on an Asian performance tour.

While Maxi-Media is at it, it might as well produce a major concert with Legrand and Regine in July. It will certainly be a big boost to the album.

Who's better, Robin or Pops?

"VIDEOKE King" is one title that action superstar **Robin Padilla** will not aspire for. He doesn't even sing.

But when the script of "Videoke King" was given to him, Robin was thrilled, even if it would mean going tacky to play the role. It also meant he would work for the first time with concert queen **Pops Fernandez**.

"Videoke King," directed by **Jerry Sineneng,** is the ninth anniversary presentation of Star Cinema. Robin again plays a romantic leading man, a far cry from his recent action starrer, "Hari ng Selda." It is also in stark contrast to the machinegun-toting, fugitive characters he played in the past.

Robin also gets to sing for the first time to live up to the title role.

Show biz insiders consider it a casting coup to have Robin and Pops in a musical romance-comedy.

"I've been looking forward to working with Robin," says Pops, who considers the action star as her *barkada*.

Robin jokes: "Let people see who's the better singer, Pops or I.

"We enjoyed doing this movie together," he adds. "She told me *na okay naman daw akong kumanta.* Coming from a singer, that's a big compliment."

Not P100,000

A CLOSE friend of the family of vaudeville artist and singer **Bobby Gonzales** called up the INQUIRER early this week to correct the story that action king **Fernando Poe Jr**. had donated P100,000 to the hospital expenses of Bobby (***Showbiz Tidbits, April 15).***

Bobby, 68, remains confined in the intensive care unit of the Parañaque Medical Center and is in need of a pacemaker. He suffered a stroke and was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute emphysema and stage-3 hypertension.

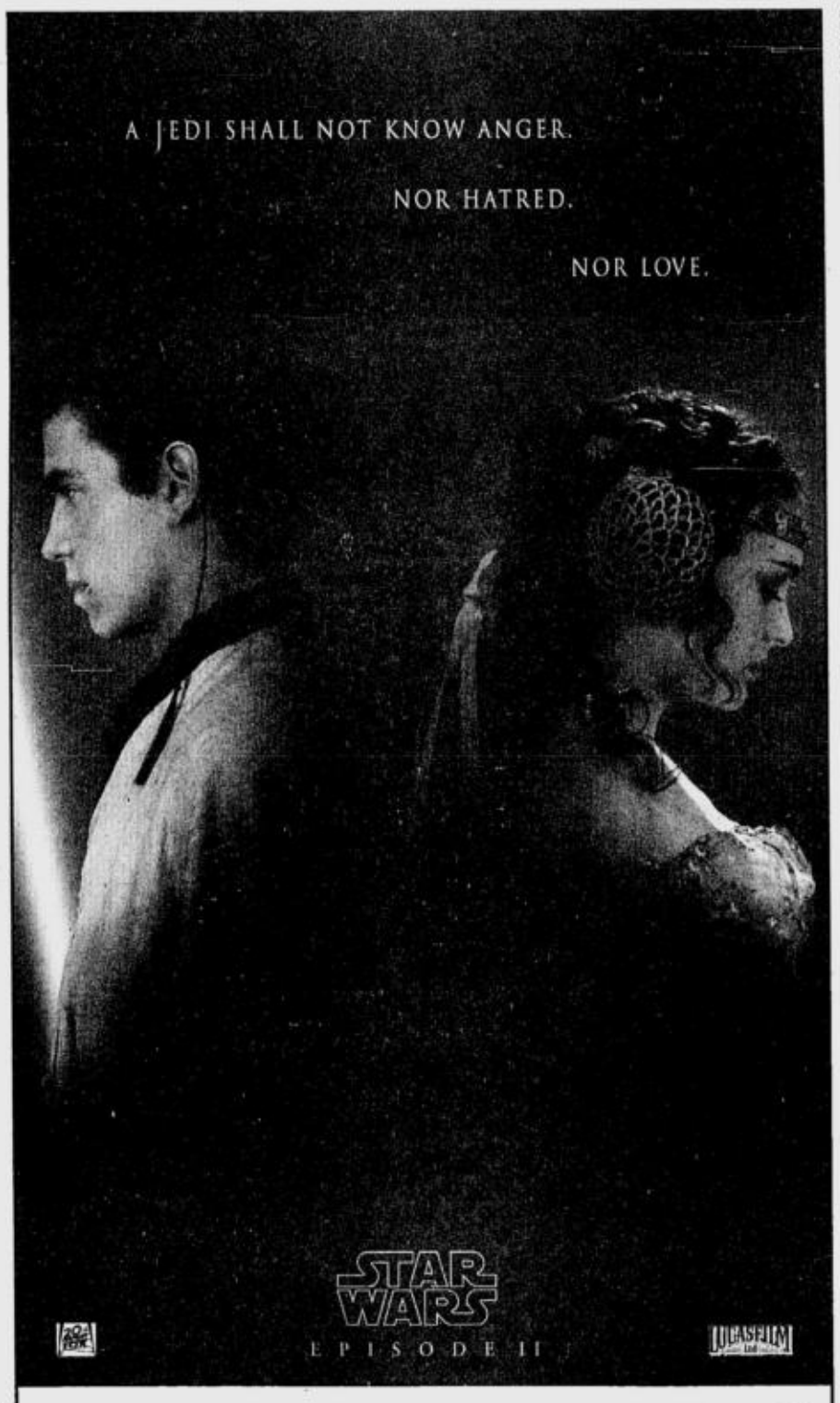
He remains conscious even if he breathes only through a mechanical ventilator. He can also communicate through writing.

The family friend said FPJ donated only P30,000, but Bobby received other financial help from his other show biz friends such as **Dolphy** and **German Moreno**.

Eli Gardiner, former chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), also offered financial assistance. Bobby was one of the artists who performed in OWWA's "Hatid-Saya" shows for Filipino communities in other countries.

Bobby lives in a house with his sister **Vicky**, who is married to **Victor Perey**.

BAD BOY, good singer. Robin can carry a tune, according to costar Pops Fernandez.



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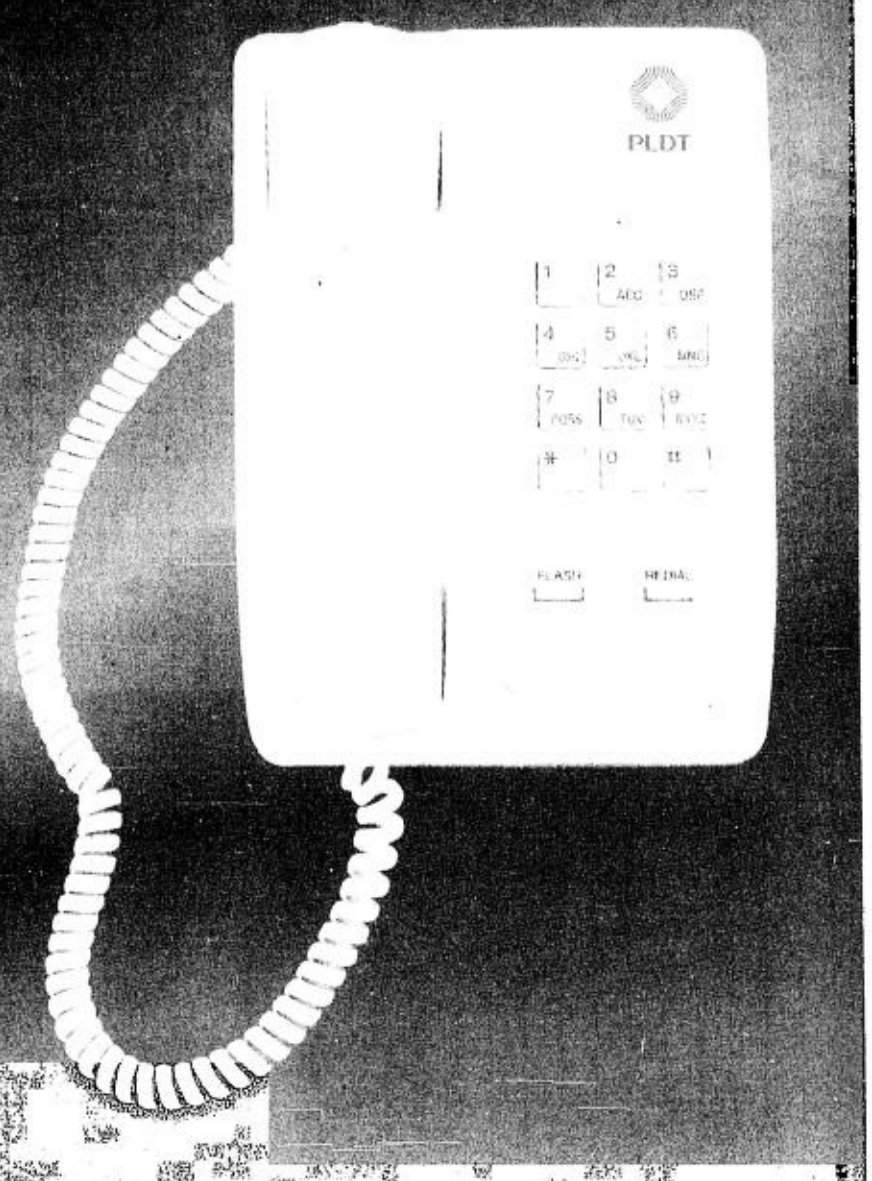

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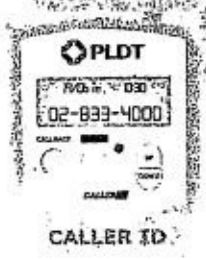

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday BIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Finance chief sold 'fuzzy dolls'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THAT the boyish Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho used to make dolls and sell these as a source of his first hard-earned bucks was an image first met with disbelief, then with giggles from those fortunate to have heard his disclosure.

Camacho stresses it should not be confused with being fond of dolls, careful that the new revelation may affect his reputation as a heartthrob especially after having had the misfortune of being tagged a "Mama's boy" last year after his confirmation hearing.

Admittedly, many expect a skilled investment banker like Camacho, whose net worth is estimated at over P150 million, to have made his first earnings from the same field.

But his short stint as a doll-maker at the age of 17 actually impressed a lot who were initially surprised to hear the artistic side of the man who deftly pulled through countless local and global money transactions here and overseas, whether with the private sector or with the government.

Camacho calls them "fuzzy dolls" which he described as ragtag-looking toys made from cardboard, yarn and paint.

FIRST JOB

"I used to make these fuzzy dolls and sold them during the fair. That was where I made my first earnings," says the finance chief whom people describe as a financial wizard.

At a young age, Camacho's prowess in making money was already evident.

CAMACHO's drawing of his fuzzy doll

Having spent no more than P500 as capital to make, perhaps close to a hundred dolls, the finance chief said he earned "a few thousand pesos" from the small business he set up when he was a freshman in college.

His creative side is also a surprise to many. "I do some paintings. I like doing these things but now I don't have much time for them," he notes.

Camacho studied Math-

FINANCE/ B2

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE started earning by exercising his creativity.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

MALNOURISHED children of Tangos, Navotas welcome Jollibee.

₱7 a day can keep malnutrition away

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS not unusual for some very poor parents who live on less than P50 a day to feed their children rice with soft drinks to get them through the day.

They believe that the carbohydrates from rice plus the extra helping of sugar from soft drinks would be enough to fuel their bodies and those of their children.

No wonder then that over 40 percent of Filipino children under six years old suffer from some form of malnutrition, according to the latest survey of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

This is what the nongovernment organization Kabisig ng Kalahi and fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. hope to eventually eradicate through the Supplemental Feeding for Malnourished Children project.

Kabisig prime mover Vicky Wieneke says the project was born out of the desire of some civic-minded individuals and the DSWD, particularly DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman, to help these malnourished children.

"We wanted to save these children because malnutrition at this age would eventually lead to other problems such as retardation. If we don't save them at this age, then we would not be able to make a difference," Wieneke says.

The supplemental feeding program was launched in July last year and roughly 1,000 children have already been benefited in the National Capital Region. But they wanted to help more, and the problem, like always, is funding. Fortunately, Jollibee came to the rescue.

Bigger beneficiary

Claro F. Certeza, Jollibee vice president for corporate affairs, however, says Jollibee turned out to be the bigger beneficiary, as employees and the company itself learned more about truly making a difference in people's lives.

"Our company has always been involved in outreach programs because we believe in being a good citizen. We take our social responsibilities seriously, but then we were looking for something more than just giving out a donation. We wanted something more effective and we found it in this project," Certeza said.

Under the feeding program, DSWD would propose a site for supplemental feeding. The areas were chosen based on the extent of malnutrition affecting children from 0-6 years old.

Each module consists of 30 children and the program would run for six months. The funding partner such as Jollibee would channel the P40,000 budget through a bank account kept by a leader of the community and a member of the local government.

The money would be used to provide one nutritious meal a day for the 30 children. The menu was developed by a nutritionist to make sure that the children get their daily allowance of vitamins and minerals. The meal costs about P7 a day per child.

It may look like a very small amount but Kabisig's Wieneke says that P7 is actually all that is needed to come up with a nutritious meal. The secret lies in the kind of food bought from the market.

"We use a lot of vegetables and fresh fish. We do not allow canned or processed food. It is amazing because the children did not like it at the start but with training of the mothers and education, they eventually liked it," Wieneke says.

Jollibee got into the program last year and its first community was in Tangos, Navotas, where many of the 30 children suffered from 2nd and 3rd degree malnutrition, which means they were severely underweight.

"When we first went there the families looked like they had absolutely no hope. Some were even skeptical about us, but when we proceeded with the six-month program, we slowly saw changes.

P7 A DAY/ B3

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Cebu-based meat goods travel to Manila, Luzon

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Virginia Foods Inc. started out as a hog-raising venture. Now, it has grown into one of the leading suppliers of hotdogs in Visayas and Mindanao.

Yet, little is known of this Cebu-based company as it has taken a low-profile stance in the past.

The Chiongbian family, who also owned William Lines, one of the country's biggest shipping companies at the time, formed the company.

The company produces two types of products—the canned goods and the frozen meat products.

Last year, Albert Chiongbian, who was the company's major stockholder, wanted to concentrate on farming and hog raising.

Chiongbian decided to sell the meat processing company to Avalon Holdings, VFI president Felix Tiukinhoy Jr. told the INQUIRER.

Avalon Holdings took over the company early this year and asked Tiukinhoy and the rest of the employees to stay on.

Originally registered as Virginia Farms Inc. in 1968, the company's main line of business was hog raising.

The company started processing its own meat after several years, Tiukinhoy recalled.

When the demand grew, the company put up a 2,215-square-meter plant with canning facilities in Consolacion town, 13 kilometers north of Cebu City.

The meat processing operations was later spun off to form a separate company now known as Virginia Foods Inc.

As demand for the VFI products grew, the company decided to construct a modern processing plant at a 7-hectare compound in Compostela town, about 25 km north of Cebu City.

The VFI processing plant has a daily production capacity of 40 metric tons.

The new plant, which started operations in April 1992, also has an abattoir, which was rated triple A by the National Meat Inspection Commission of the Department of Agriculture.

The Compostela plant also has a wastewater treatment facility, which was designed in consultation with the National Pollution Commission.

The VFI stopped using the abattoir when it realized that sourcing raw materials elsewhere would bring down production costs, Tiukinhoy said.

The company gets its raw materials locally when there is enough supply, Tiukinhoy said.

Due to the unreliable supply of raw materials needed for processing, he said, they had to import their requirements.

Until last year, the VFI was content with its market share, depending only on the traditional form of marketing to sell its products. Even then it is the leader in the Visayas and Mindanao hotdog markets with its Winner brand.

It was only now that the company decided to become more visible as it saw the challenges that the processed meat sector will be facing once the Philippines complies with its World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff reduction commitments.

The company knew that imported processed meat products would flood the domestic market by that time.

To gain national exposure, the VFI has come up with a television advertisement with Sharon Cuneta promoting the company's Winner brand corned beef.

The television ads target the huge market in Metro Manila and the Luzon area, Tiukinhoy said.

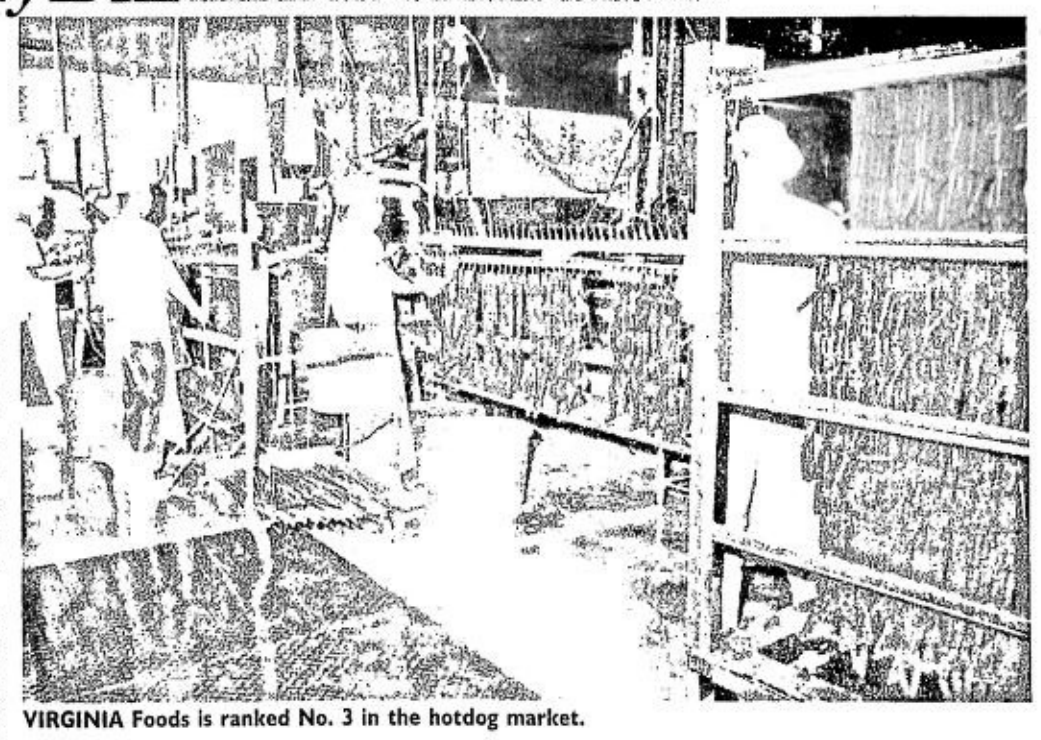
After the television ads came out, VFI's share in the corned beef market rose from only 1.9 percent in December 2001 to 4.2 percent in February 2002.

"As far as the corned beef sector is concerned, the VFI is now No. 5 in the market, next to Argentina, Purefoods, CDO and Swift," he said.

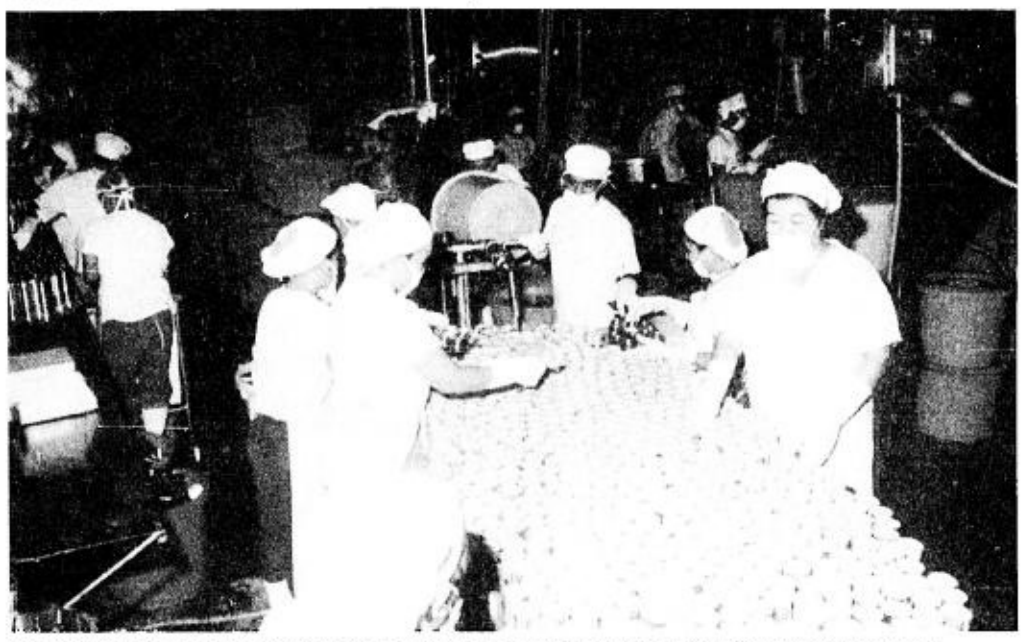
Nationwide, the VFI is also ranked third in the hotdog market after Purefoods and Swift, he added.

The hotdog products account for 70 to 80 percent of the company's revenues from the frozen products, he said.

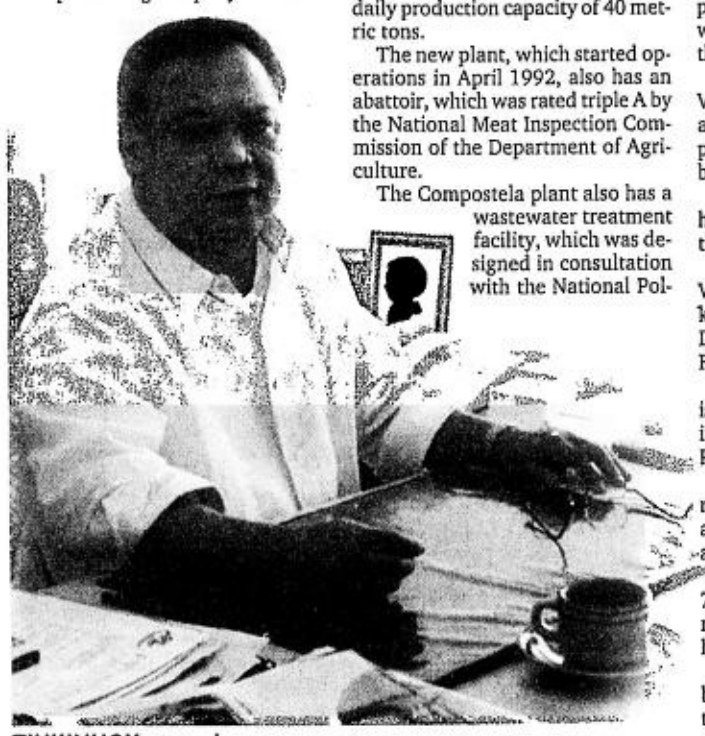
On the other hand, the corned beef products bring in 60 percent of the company's earnings from its canned products, he said.



VIRGINIA Foods is ranked No. 3 in the hotdog market.



CORNED beef accounts for 60 percent of the company's earnings from its canned products.



TIUKINHOY at work

The VFI also aims to increase its market share in the corned beef market to at least 10 percent, he said.

To prepare for the imminent entry of more imported processed meat products, local meat processors have to come up with value-added products and find their niche.

Another option is to merge with other companies, according to Tiukinhoy, who is also president of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi).

"I can see a lot of mergers, with big companies absorbing the smaller ones. Companies can also go into joint ventures," he said.

Local meat processors can also focus on their respective areas and come up with specialty products to serve these areas, he said.

Since VFI has already found its niche, the company can hold its own as far as competition from imported products is concerned, he said.

Tiukinhoy, however, did not dismiss the possibility of merging with other meat processors.

"Maybe, in the near future. We can't tell," he said, when asked on the possibility of merging with another company.

The strategic location of the company is a major pull since the demand for processed meat in the Visayas and Mindanao areas is expected to continue growing, he said.

CAMACHO at ease.

Finance chief . . .

From page B1

ematics at the De la Salle University where he graduated cum laude. It was during the school fairs of DLSU that he used to sell the dolls he conceptualized himself.

Standing no more than a foot, each doll was composed of a big head sitting on a base made of cardboard, based on a quick sketch he made on this reporter's notebook.

The finance chief would try to make each funny-looking face as unique and as cute as possible. A spring attached at the back of the head would support a small panel for a note or a name which made the dolls a perfect gift item for college kids.

Aside from being inherently creative, Camacho recalls he joined a seminar for young entrepreneurs when he was 17 years old to enrich his skills in painting and the crafts.

Soon after college in 1975, however, the finance secretary moved on to the financial field where he was more akin as a professional.

Camacho's first formal job was as a systems analyst at the BF Life Trust Insurance Corp., the life insurance company of the Banco Filipino Group.

In BF Life, he earned P800 a month which was considerably higher than the minimum wage that time.

"During that time, the systems were not computerized yet so as systems analyst I do interviews and process these for the insurance firm with the goal of trying to make the system more efficient," notes the finance chief.

After six months with BF Life, he moved to Associated Bank, the forerunner of Westmont Bank and now United Overseas Bank.

"I didn't have a car then so I took the jeep and the bus. I only bought a car when I came back from the country after studying in Harvard," the finance chief recalls.

Camacho took up Masters in Business Administration in Harvard Business School from 1977 to 1979. After Harvard, he started working for Bankers Trust that became Deutsche Bank later.

His first million, Camacho says he earned during the early '80s when he started his work as an investment banker. He admitted he could not recall now the details of how he felt when he first saw his bank balance hitting seven figures.

Camacho's career in investment banking peaked in the '90s when he became the managing director and chief country officer prior to his appointment as energy secretary.

A father to six, Camacho notes most of his assets were savings from his salaries during the more than two decades he spent in the financial sector.

Industry sources say a good portion of the assets that Camacho had declared were actually the inheritance of his wife whom he met at Harvard Business School.

The guy describes himself as an innovative and creative financial expert who believes that risk is always part of the equation.

"It's nice to be on the other side because I could easily tell those guys who will come to me with financial offers to cut the bullshit and simply lay the cards on the table," he says.

Family revives 'famous' business

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

THE ROAD to any business success is not always simple and easy, but having an apt name that implies fame could be an advantage.

It was Celso Tanyag of Nagcarlan, Laguna, who started the family business of making kropeck in 1974.

Lending his family name was prophetic as Tanyag in English means famous and famous his products become.

Celso's daughter, Daisy Tanyag-Veridiano, 41, who now manages Daisy Food Products, manufacturer of Tanyag Special Kropeck, remembers how her father did a lot of experimenting and research on the "how-tos" of kropeck-making.

Daisy, who was 14 years old then, relates that her father would do the work manually since they didn't have any machines to rely on at that time. She even claims that the kropeck her father used to make was pink.

Today, Tanyag Kropeck has peach/orange color when cooked. The color is the closest that the kropeck can get to the color shrimp, the main ingredient.

The business was also doing fine but it closed down in 1979, when the elder Tanyag passed away.

It took six years before Daisy and some of her siblings decided to revive the business their father had started.

Daisy, the fourth in a brood of 10, finished a secretarial course in Laguna Colleges and lost her contractual work at Sanyo Marketing Corp. in 1984. This incident further convinced her to do the business to generate income for the family.

They were lucky to have found the notebook in which their father wrote the "formula" for the kropeck. With this in hand, they started to experiment to improve the taste.

It was difficult for them at the start having no mixers and other machines to help them in the production. Even the cutting of the kropeck was done manually, Daisy claims.

"We would usually finish at midnight putting the product all together . . . from mixing the ingredients to steaming, cutting, frying and packing," Daisy explains.

Trial

It was All Saints Day in 1985 when they had their first trial and introduced their kropeck in their town's cemetery. They packed the kropeck in plastic without any label on it.

Luckily, it became quite a hit, but still, they realized the importance of having a product name or label in boosting their trade.

DAISY Tanyag was lucky to have found her father's formula for the kropeck.

TANYAG became synonymous with kropeck

Soon, they decided to have Tanyag Kropeck labels printed in papers and inserted them in the plastic packs of kropeck.

After mastering the craft of kropeck-making and meeting all the necessary requirements and sanitary permits from the DTI, BFAD and test analysis from DOST, Daisy thought it was time for them to try their luck in Manila by selling their product to canteens in different schools.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

The University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Normal College, St. Paul's Manila and Centro Escolar University became their first markets outside Laguna.

The Kropeck costs only about P3 per 50 gram-pack at that time, Daisy recalls.

Daisy and her brother would commute from Laguna to Manila every Monday to bring the kropeck to these schools since they did not have a truck for delivery during that time. Despite the long trip, it was enough reward for them to know that Tanyag Kropeck was a big hit among students.

"Sometimes some of the kropeck would crack because of the long trip, but the canteens still accepted them because the students were looking for the snack," Daisy beams.

Customers

Soon the name Tanyag literally became famous with its kropeck, having established regular customers from nearby towns, and walk-in patrons who bought their product for *pasalubong* or sometimes even for sale.

Tanyag Kropeck comes in two sizes: 50 and 100 grams.

In 1994, kropeck production became easier when they bought dough mixer, slicers and shrimp grinder, which Daisy's husband assembled and designed.

It was also in that same year that Tanyag Kropeck began using the new packaging, which they are still using today—a plastic pack with the labels directly printed out on it.

At present, Tanyag Kropeck is sold in all SM Supermarket branches nationwide and at convenience stores such as 7-Eleven, Star Mart, Select and Treats.

Teddy, Daisy's husband, is now doing the distribution using the family's own delivery van.

Daisy's mother, Petronila Tanyag, 69, still helps in overseeing the production of the kropeck in their house. Tanyag has 15 workers, some of whom have been with them for over eight years.

Daisy states that they make 2,000 packs everyday.

Flavored kropeck

Despite the company's success, Daisy has not stopped improving the product. Last year, Daisy Food Products introduced bite-sized flavored kropeck in the market.

Today, Daisy claims that Tanyag's garlic, cheese and barbecue flavored kropecks are certified hits.

With the success of Tanyag Kropeck, Daisy says, they were able to build an adjacent room in their home to house the production facilities for the kropeck. She and her husband were also able to send their four children to private schools.

Daisy also boasts of their "no preservatives added"-policy and hopes that Tanyag Kropeck may soon reach the international market.

Indeed, Tanyag's name is going places.

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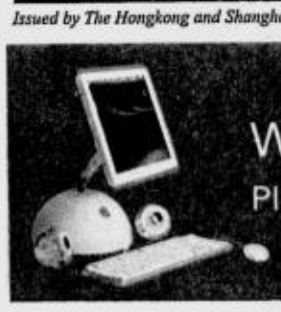

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Carabao milk is multibillion-peso business

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The glaring truth is that the country has been importing 99.3 percent of its milk and milk products requirements.

Records showed that in 1991, the value of the country's importation of milk and milk products was a little less than $250 million. This increased to $450 million in 1995 and 1996. It could be much more today.

The value of milk importation over the years could make people cry because it meant a drain of the country's dollar reserves. The average amount spent for the importation of milk and milk products from 1992 to 1999 was $400 million a year.

The milk products brought in are skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, evaporated milk, buttermilk, buttermilk powder, whey powder, butter, butterfat, cheeses and curd. Among these products, the larger import quantities are for skimmed milk and whole milk powder.

According to the National Statistics Office, the average milk volume imported (fresh milk and milk products in liquid milk equivalent) from 1992 to 1999 was 1.43 billion liters a year.

But this deficit in milk and milk products production in the country could mean a very big business opportunity particularly for farmers, cooperatives and entrepreneurs.

In fact, several farmers or farmers' wives are now involved in buffalo milk production and are beginning to learn the rudiments of producing various milk products.

Their number is increasing as breakthroughs in reproductive biotechnology hasten the increase in the number of island-born superior breed of water buffaloes or carabaos.

An example of milk producers is the all-women members of the Angat Buhay Producers Cooperatives of Barangay Kalabalabaan in this city.

The 25 women are wives of farmers and some low-income earning workers. Each of them is an owner of a female Murrah buffalo provided by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) on certain terms and conditions.

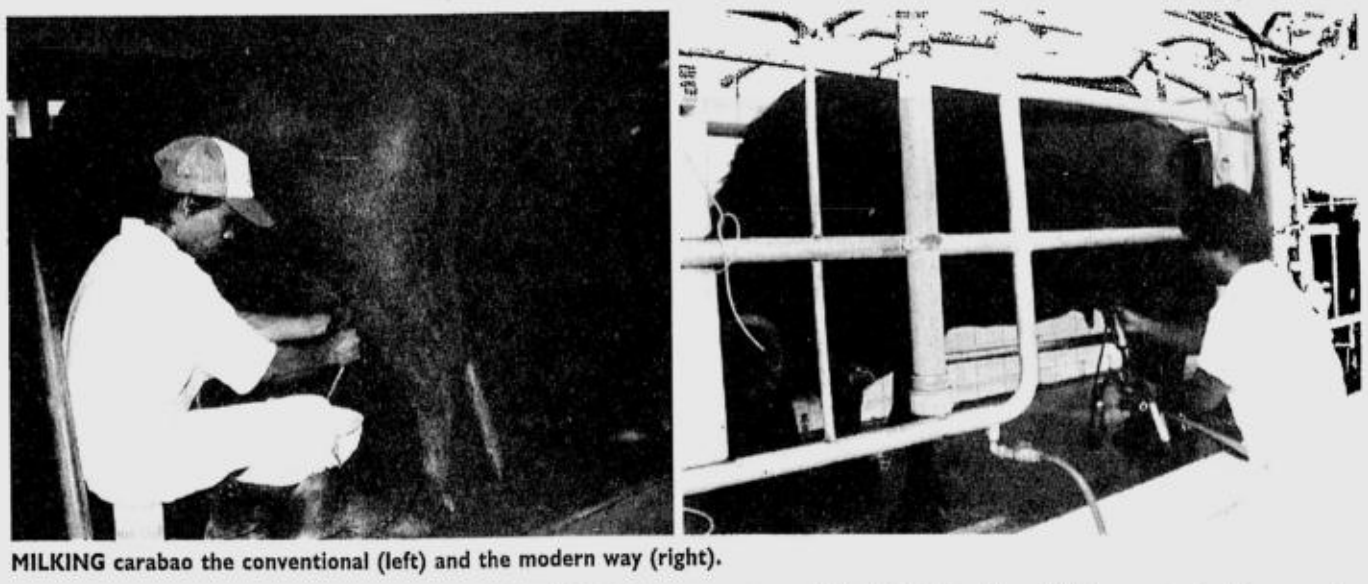
They now produce an average of four liters of milk daily that they sell at P30 a liter. Of this amount, P2 is given to their cooperative and P2 to the delivery man.

Most of the women members milk the dairy water buffaloes daily, some starting as early 3 a.m. More than half of the cooperative members are now earning at least P104 a day. They are inspired to go on with their chores as they know that their milking animal will produce more milk as its lactation capability is improved further.

In Talavera town, the Christian Farmers' Kilusang Bayan Credit and Allied Services collects from its members at least 100 liters of milk a day.

The milk is sold by the Premium Dairy Cooperatives, which the carabao owners formed, to a milk processing center in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Such dairy cooperatives have been established not only in Nueva Ecija but in many places in the country. These cooperatives have been earning money out of the milk of the dairy carabaos they have raised and nurtured.



MILKING carabao the conventional (left) and the modern way (right).

According to Dr. Libertado Cruz, PCC executive director, as the breed of carabaos in the country improves, the animal's potentials to provide income to the raisers are given attention.

Of course, he said, the animal's contribution in the economy of the raiser is its draft power for a myriad of agricultural work and menial services like transport and hauling of logs and other goods.

Studies conducted by the PCC projects development officers showed that the potential net income from raw milk from a dairy carabao per year is between P22,000 and P30,000.

SOME milk products produced at the Philippine Carabao Center.

For a family module of five dairy carabaos, the net income could be from P95,000 to P170,000 a year.

For modules of 25 dairy carabaos each, the estimated net income per year is from P352,000 to P480,000.

Cruz said the PCC, in coordination with local governments, is carrying out a dairy carabao loan program. Under the program, qualified members of dairy cooperatives are provided with a breedable or pregnant carabao each.

The loaned out dairy carabao becomes the property of the recipient as soon as he or she gives to the PCC two offsprings of the animal.

In the meantime, a big part of the sales from milk produced by the carabao goes to the beneficiary and the rest for the cooperative and for some incidental expenses.

Cruz said Nueva Ecija is the national impact zone (NIZ) for the PCC dairy buffalo modules. As of now, 40 dairy cooperatives have been established in the province.

Eleven of these cooperatives in seven towns of the province reported milk production of 20,473 liters from Dec. 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. This volume of milk generated total sales of P682,548.57.

The milk production was from 78 lactating buffaloes. Lactation period ranges from one month to 11 months.

Outside Nueva Ecija, 38 other cooperatives have been established as partners of the PCC in the dairy buffalo modules.

These partner-cooperatives are in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Isabela, Cagayan, Bulacan, Zambales, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Iloilo, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Leyte, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Davao del Norte, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Lanao del Norte.

These cooperatives are assisted by technicians of the satellite stations of PCC.

Members of dairy cooperatives are given training on animal management, dairy animal handling, milk processing and other aspects needed for successfully carrying out a dairy project.

Cruz said that from the time the program on the improvement of the breed of the native carabaos started in the early 1980s, more than 300,000 female crossbreeds have been produced.

They are owned by farmers and are now providing additional income to their owners through the milk that these carabaos produce.

He said top-of-the-line dairy buffaloes in the country could produce 17 liters of milk a day. The native breed, he said, provides milk at the rate of 1.5 liters a day.

The processing of milk is certainly a big business enterprise, Cruz said. This is more particularly true if the processing of milk is done on a commercial scale whose target outlets are big supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and the world market.

Aware of this, the PCC is establishing a central milk processing plant (CMPP) at its national headquarters here. The CMPP will be operated by the federation of the dairy cooperatives in Nueva Ecija.

Cruz said the milk produced by the different dairy modules would be collected and delivered daily to the CMPP where it will be processed into different products. The products will include pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, white cheese, processed cheese and others.

"The key to this processing is quality of the product and quality of packaging," Cruz said, adding that the federation of the dairy cooperatives in the province will also market the products under a brand name that will be agreed upon.

But the more exciting project is the development of quality mozzarella cheese that can be marketed here and abroad, he said.

This cheese is commonly used for pizza but is also saleable for table consumption.

Mozzarella cheese is sold in the market P600 to P700 a kilo.

The PCC here has already installed the equipment for the production of mozzarella cheese and different kinds of cheese. The equipment costs P8.2 million.

"There's really big money from fresh milk and milk products," Cruz said. "Our farmers and entrepreneurs can cash in on them for added income. After all, we can already produce quality carabao's milk."

THE HOUSES where Basilan children live.

P7 a day . . .

From page B1

The children were getting the nutrition that they needed and we slowly saw hope in their eyes," Certeza says.

Another change was also happening. Employees who got involved in the program saw their outlook change from strictly career and family people to people who were more aware of the world.

"It was surprising because more and more Jollibee employees want to be involved in the program because they see that just a portion of their time can go a long way to improve someone else's life. Some would even spend their day off at the feeding site," Certeza says.

From Navotas, Jollibee then agreed to finance five communities in war-torn Basilan. There is no Jollibee branch in the area but they decided to go through with the project because of the extent of the problem. The feeding program started last March.

Certeza says almost all of the children in the Basilan sites were suffering from 3rd degree malnutrition, and the feeding program was badly needed. Kabisig had to bring in milk supplements because the meals were not enough to increase the children's weight.

"It was a difficult time to go to Basilan because of the Abu Sayyaf problem. There was a point there where I wondered what we at Jollibee were doing there, but when we got there we realized that the problem was grave and they needed our help," Certeza stresses.

The Navotas program is now about to end and the Basilan communities are on the 2nd month of operations, and Jollibee is already looking at helping more communities nationwide.

"We all want the projects to push through because projects like these empower individuals to improve their lives. The beauty of this program is that it is not a dole-out, it is not just about food, but the parents are taught how to budget, how to do accounting and how to feed their children right. There is also values training for them," Certeza says.

Wieneke adds that it was only through the supplemental feeding program that the parents and the community felt that they can make a difference in their own lives, through the help of partners such as the government, the private sector and well-meaning individuals. *(For donations, please call 896-8322 or 896-1621.)*

SOME of the parents and children supported by Jollibee.

Go for small margins, get big sales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"KONTI kita, dami benta."

Entrepreneur and inventor Edgardo "Gary" Vazquez said this has been the family's mantra ever since his father started Vazquez Gravel and Sand shop in the 1950s.

Vazquez says he learned this philosophy first hand from the frequent trips he made with his father (who acted as driver and salesman in the first few years of the business) in Gandara in Quiapo in the 1950s scouring for cheap, construction materials.

"We beat the Chinese traders in their own game by using their strategy. We grew to become one of the biggest suppliers of construction supplies and not a few were surprised to know that we were Filipinos," Vazquez says.

Elizabeth V. Legasto, Vazquez's sister, says their parents' efforts soon paid dividends as the business flourished in an industry which is traditionally a Chinese domain.

"We practically contributed to the construction of major landmarks in Metro Manila."

Vazquez and his siblings carried on the low margin, high volume philosophy when they branched out in the 1970s.

From gravel and sand, the Vasquez family expanded to the production of other construction materials, particularly bricks and Tegula concrete tiles, building modular housing themselves through an innovative construction technology which won Vazquez recognition from the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Dubbed the Vazbuilt system, houses would be put up from prefabricated columns, panels, trusses and roof tiles in as little as 30 days with only eight laborers and at substantially lower costs compared to the traditional construction scheme using hollow blocks, steel bars and concrete.

Vazquez says his invention was stoked by the chronic housing backlog in the country.

"All Filipinos from all walks of life yearn to have a house they could proudly call their own. Not all Filipinos have houses because they are expensive to build and the few that managed to save enough money had to make do with inferior structures," Vazquez said.

He said he designed the Vazbuilt houses to meet the Filipinos' "3M criteria."

VAZBUILT'S version of a farmer's house.

"They want a house that is *mura* (affordable), *maganda* (beautiful), and *mura*. We feel the Vazbuilt system satisfies all of their demands," he stresses.

Vazquez adds that the key to keeping down building costs was to use pre-fabricated materials to enjoy economies of scale by producing materials in bulk. Not only are the materials cheaper, building them requires fewer manpower and shorter schedule.

Not unlike the Lego building blocks, Vazquez says Vazbuilt's prefabricated materials could be assembled, disassembled and transferred to other locations relatively with ease. Vazbuilt houses are also expandable since owners need only buy compatible materials to add an attic or expand the kitchen space.

Vazquez says Vazbuilt system is flexible enough to incorporate the tastes and preferences of homebuyers.

Some of the country's leading architects, such as Recio+Casas and Palafox & Associates, felt that the Vazbuilt system would help solve the country's housing problem, so they agreed to lower their fees and come up with a designer series exclusively for Vazbuilt.

Vazquez says the Vazbuilt materials have undergone rigorous testing for earthquake and fire risks as well as termites and it offers buyers 15-year guarantee on structural works.

Among the developers that were impressed by the Vazbuilt system and used it in their projects were First Centro Holdings of Megaworld, Antel Property Holdings, Jardine Land, CarmelRay, Robinsons Homes, Jaka Properties and Laguna Properties Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Land.

Nearly a half century since its modest beginnings in Quiapo, Legasto says Vazbuilt has come full circle as it starts offering development projects on its own to make more houses affordable to a greater number of Filipinos.

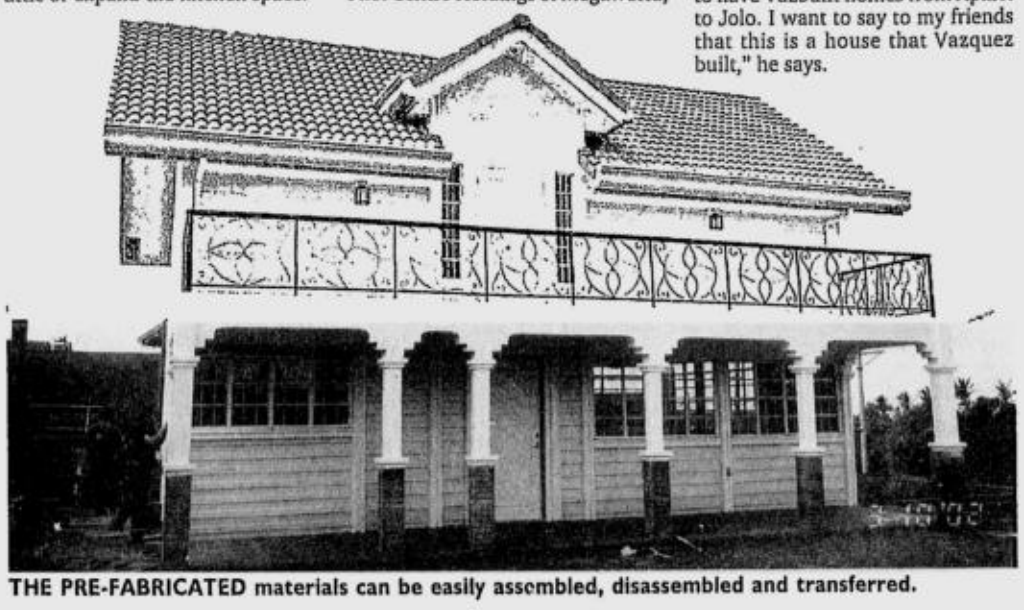
"We cut building costs by building pre-fabricated materials ourselves. Now, we are putting up our real estate projects that would erase the need for middlemen," he says.

Vazbuilt has established a one-stop shop for homebuyers and lot owners who want to build their houses. Legasto said these one-stop-shops, strategically located in shopping malls and other bustling areas in Metro Manila, would take care of all the hassles of house building, from getting permits to financing to overseeing construction.

Vazbuilt is also keen on taking partners that would put up factories in the provinces to produce prefabricated materials under their specification. Vazbuilt is also close to making its Vazbuilt system materials available for retail on shelves, allowing consumers to build their homes on their own.

But Vazquez' dream is still to put a decent roof on all Filipinos and this is why Vazbuilt has been expanding its product portfolio in recent years to serve the mass housing segment.

'I'm still chasing after my dream to have Vazbuilt homes from Aparri to Jolo. I want to say to my friends that this is a house that Vazquez built," he says.



THE PRE-FABRICATED materials can be easily assembled, disassembled and transferred.

Vietnam peddles coffee chic with Nguyen cafes

HANOI, Vietnam—The decor is unadulterated kitsch—glittering Christmas lights, Crayola-colored chairs, a pop music soundtrack—and undeniably trendy.

For the stream of customers crowding into Trung Nguyen cafes across Vietnam, it's a potent combination of coffee chic and "ca-phe sua," Vietnamese for "coffee with milk" or, in this case, strong espresso served over a syrup of condensed milk.

Capitalizing on an emerging, affluent middle-class and the simple attractions of aromatic coffee, 31-year-old entrepreneur Dang Le Nguyen Vu has successfully launched Vietnam's first nationwide franchise.

Call it Starbucks, Vietnam-style.

Over the past four years, Vu's chain of Trung Nguyen cafes has grown to more than 400 outlets in all of Vietnam's provinces, from the busy Ho Chi Minh City to rural of Sapa on the northern border.

In Vietnamese, Trung Nguyen means "Central Highlands"—an area famous for its coffee—and Vu now wants to spread the reputation of his coffee label well beyond Vietnam's borders.

"I want to have the Vietnamese brand name of Trung Nguyen well known in the world. Our coffee is good. There's no reason we can't do it," Vu said.

Bold words, but Vu has already bucked the odds by successfully operating in a communist country that still favors state-owned enterprises over private business.

Trung Nguyen's wildfire growth in Vietnam, the world's second largest coffee exporter, is testament to Vu's vision—not to mention the notable absence of a certain coffee giant.

Although Seattle-based Starbucks has made sizable headway in the region—in Japan, Thailand and China, among others—it still has no presence in Vietnam. High tariffs on imported roasted coffee ensured the dominance of the local coffee industry and an opportunity for an enterprising medical student.

In 1996, Vu "was in love with economics and business more than medicine so I started a small operation."

With three friends, he opened a small cafe in their Central Highland hometown of Buon Ma Thuot—known for its potent coffee. The story could have ended there but what made Trung Nguyen different was Vu's decision to introduce franchising in 1998.

For a one-time charge and a pledge to buy discounted coffee only from him, a franchisee gained the right to put up the distinctive brown and cream sign with the coffee cup.

In return, Vu got name brand advertising and the visible saturation necessary to start a buzz.

The name sells, said Pham Thi Truc Giang, who runs one of the largest Trung Nguyen franchises in Hanoi. Her two-story, 400-seat cafe is packed with 600 to 800 customers daily. Weekends bring in even more, with motorbikes parked three to four deep on the sidewalk.

"I think Trung Nguyen came along at the right time. If people didn't have money to spend, then we wouldn't do so well," she said.

Trung Nguyen's distinctive, upmarket style is a sharp contrast to the streetside tea stalls and murky cafes that abound in Vietnam, attracting a range of clientele from office workers to college students. Its success parallels a growing middle-class with more money to spend and more leisure time to linger.

But for Vu, domestic dominance is only the beginning. He is already casting his eye about the region. Last year, he signed franchise agreements in Singapore, Tokyo and Shanghai.

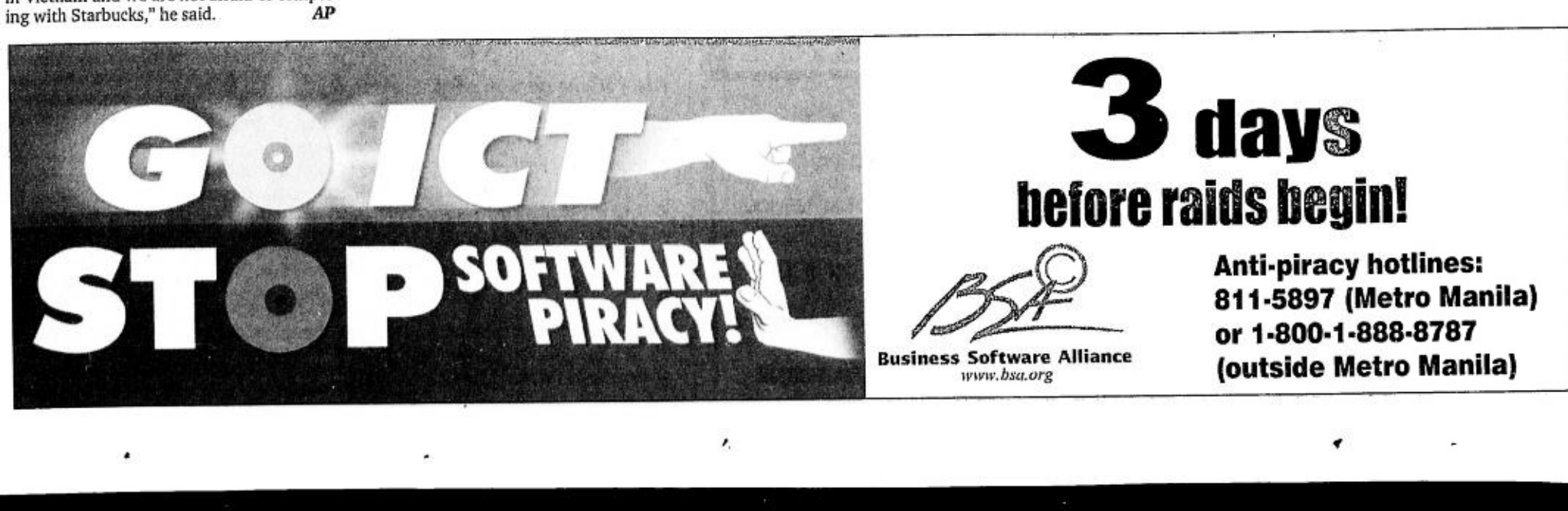
In December, he visited America for the first time as part of a delegation checking out business opportunities following passage last year of a US-Vietnam trade pact.

"I visited some Starbucks outlets in the United States. I think Starbucks and Trung Nguyen share some similarities. But we are planning to make Trung Nguyen coffee shops with typical Vietnamese features, which reflect our culture, design and service style," he said.

His company is now negotiating with partners in 15 countries, including the United States, Germany, Taiwan, Russia, Hong Kong, Australia and Canada, to offer the franchise, he said.

For the time being, Vu plans to stop franchising within Vietnam and concentrate instead on setting up 15 larger, luxury cafes in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City which he believes would outshine Starbucks if, as seems inevitable, the coffee giant arrives in his country.

"We see Starbucks as a potential competitor in Vietnam and we are not afraid of competing with Starbucks," he said. ***AP***



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Student Discipline Coordinator	Graduate of any AB/BS degree, with at least three (3) years related work experience, has strong personality, good leadership skills, computer literate, female, at least 30 years old.
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?

Are you the person we're looking for?
- If you are a graduate of a 4 year course preferable a business course
- If you have at least 1 year relative experience
- If you are proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- If your oral and written communication skills are excellent
- And most of all if you are **DYNAMIC**, **CAPABLE** and has the makings of a **LEADER**.

THEN YOU ARE THE ONE!

Please send your resumé to the Administration Dept.,
88 Sct. Gandia St. corner Tomas Morato, Quezon City or email us at **tmpdc-ho@mozcom.com**

Need Easy Cash?

Join SMART's **R U LOADED?**!!! It is the only SMART Buddy promo where you get to choose your cash prize. If you choose to win ₱50,000 this week, load ₱300. If you choose to win ₱150,000, load ₱500. If you choose to win ₱250,000, load ₱1000!

And if you still choose to win the ₱2 Million grand prize, just keep on loading your SMART Buddy account! The more you load, the more chances of winning!

Promo period is from April 1 to June 30, 2002.

How to register:

Key in LOADED <full name> / <address> and send to 211.

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Per DTI- NCR Permit No. 0519 Series of 2002.

NHK

(Japan Broadcasting Corporation)
Is in urgent need of a

TEMPORARY NEWS REPORTER

Qualifications:

- Filipino Citizen, age: 25-35 yrs. old
- Bachelor degree holder in Journalism, Mass Communication, other related courses or higher
- At least 3 years experience as a field reporter in different beats
- Energetic, hardworking, good in human relations and can work well with others
- With excellent command of both written and oral English and Pilipino
- Must be computer literate

Will be hired for at least 3 months continuously. An attractive salary and fringe benefits will be offered to the successful candidate who are qualified. Please send your biodata and resume' stating full qualifications and experience, references, educational certificate and recent whole body photo to:

NHK Manila Rep. Office
Rm. 517, Manila Diamond Hotel
Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Tel: 521-9988; Fax: 522-3627

NO TELEPHONE INQUIRY WILL BE ENTERTAINED;
FAX APPLICATIONS NOT ACCEPTED
Deadline for application: May 10, 2002
(Please mark **"JOB APPLICATION"** on envelope)

A Manufacturer of packaged tissue paper products is looking for:

Sales Manager, Visayas

- Resident of Iloilo for at least five (5) years. Shall also cover Bacolod and Cebu
- Self-starter and aggressive. Able to manage a specific territory, plan and implement sales programs and motivate the team.
- With strong moral values and trustworthy.
- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Supermarket Sales Specialist or equivalent in Iloilo or Bacolod.
- Pleasing personality with good oral and written communication skills. Must be computer literate.
- Capable of conceptualizing and implementing a comprehensive Sales Plan for the area to achieve corporate Sales targets.

Sales Specialist - Supermarket

- Residents of either Iloilo, Bacolod or Cebu for at least two (2) years.
- Pleasing personality with good oral and written communication Skills. Must be computer literate.
- Organized and capable of independent action.
- Trustworthy especially in the area of handling cash.
- Experience in selling to Supermarkets a plus but not essential.

Qualified applicants are advised to send their comprehensive resumé to:

Box Code Mk-83
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer - Classified Ads Division
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES ENGINEER

- Male or Female
- Must be computer literate
- Has knowledge in Dicom, Networking & PACS
- Preferably with experience

ELECTRICIAN

- Male, Registered EE
- Must be computer literate
- Has knowledge in AutoCAD
- Preferably with experience

Please submit your comprehensive resumé and credentials to:

Phil-Japan Business Associates, Inc.
8472 Km. 18, East Service Road,
South Super Highway, Parañaque City.
Tel. Nos. 837-0618; 839-0655; Fax No. 839-0721

Pharmacist Required

Earn up to P100,000.00 a month in salaries & benefits!

Licensed full time or part time pharmacist required with excellent sales and computer skills to manage a cosmetic and beauty products business. Must be able to set up an office space at his or her home within for hours of Metro Manila and below thirty (30) years old. Please submit your resumé with your colored ID picture to:

Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell Law Offices
at 140 L. P. Leviste St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or contact **Atty. Carlo S. Marasigan**
at **818-2321** to **25.**

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives & Resource Management Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancies for the following positions in the Project Facilitation Office (PFO) based in Butuan City, and the Provincial Project Coordination Offices (PPCOs) based in Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur of the **'NORTHERN MINDANAO COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT"** with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

No. of Vacancies	Position/Duty Station
	PFO - Butuan City
1	Project Director
1	Community Devt/Gender Specialist
1	Upland Farming Systems Specialist
1	Fishery Specialist
1	Administrative Officer
1	Finance Officer
1	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
	Clerks/Computer Operators
	Drivers
	PPCOs - Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur
5	Provincial Coordinator
5	Upland Agronomist
5	Community Development Officer
5	Infrastructure Specialist
5	Fishery Specialist
5	Health Services Specialist
5	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
	Administrative Assistant
	Clerks/Computer Operators
	Drivers

Terms of References (TOR) for the positions may be obtained at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), 1st Floor, FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Above positions are intended to be filled up by June 2002. Successful candidates may be hired on a contractual basis, renewable annually; or under secondment / detail arrangement for government personnel.

Applicants should submit five (5) copies of the following:
1. Signed letterof intent stating clearly the position applied for and the duty station preferred.
2. Accomplished Personal Data Sheet including detailed description of duties and reponsibilities and accomplishments for each position held
3. Recent 2x2 photograph (attach to Personal Data Sheet)
4. For DAR employees who wish to apply, endorsement from Head of Office (Regional Director/PARO/Bureau Director)

Applications should be submitted to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOREIGN-ASSISTED PROJECTS OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QC

Deadline for applications is 13 May 2002. Incomplete applications will not be entertained. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Susan Perez or Ms. Vicky Dumayas at telephone numbers 927-0752 or 453-3633; or Ms. Nora Briones at telephone numbers 926-1667 or 926-8961.

Inquirer—April 28 & May 5, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancy for the following positions in the Project Management Office (PMO) based in Zamboanga City of the "Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project (WMCIP)" with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR

Duties: He/she will:
- Monitor and coordinate the contracted activities for the community development component of the project;
- Establish and cultivate strong relations with other social development initiatives including those of LGUs, NGOs and POs; and
- Act as a supervisor and technical advisor to the provincial Community Organization Coordinators of Zamboanga Sur, Zamboanga Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan.

Qualifications:
- At least 7 years experience in economic-oriented community development;
- Minimum of two years managerial work, preferably with some exposure in other countries and/or alternative community animation and mobilization methodologies;
- Holder of degree of relevant course, with master in relevant course an advantage;
- Proven experience in working with NGOs and civil society groups of various kinds in a managerial or advisory as well as practical role will be an advantage;
- Must be willing to spend considerable time in travel and temporary residence in the field; and
- Knowledge of internet an advantage.

2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Duties: He/she will:
- Provide high level of project management advice and directions, training and mentoring to senior management of WMCIP; and
- Must have the ability to establish and develop close and harmonious working relations with the project management and all project stakeholders.

Qualifications:
- At least 50 years of age, an experienced trainer, knowledgeable about the training cycle and training techniques and approaches required to raise the competencies of Managers working on development projects;
- Degree holder in Social Science courses; holders of masteral or doctorate degree an advantage;
- At least 10 years practical experience in successful project management; ideally in remote locations, in post-conflict situations and with projects financed by international funding institutions (IFIs);
- Expert in participatory methods, adult education, community development, workshop facilitation and training of trainers techniques; and
- Fluency in the English language.

Terms of Reference (TOR):
Terms of Reference for each position are available at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office, 1st Floor FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the WMCIP Project Management Office located at 3rd Floor, Fidela Building, Gov. Alvarez St., Zamboanga City.

Terms and Conditions of Employment:
Successful candidates will be on a contractual basis and will be based in the WMCIP-PMO in Zamboanga City with field work in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan.

When/Where to Send Applications:
Application letters and corresponding resume should be sent/submitted in sealed envelopes to:

The Assistant Secretary for Support Services and Executive Director, Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
1st Floor FAPsO Building
DAR Compound, Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Or
The Project Manager
WESTERN MINDANAO COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROJECT
3rd Floor Fidela Building, Gov. Alvarez St.
Zamboanga City

All applications must be postmarked or received not later than May 11, 2002. For inquiries, please contact Susan Perez or Josie Arevalo at telephone numbers (02) 927-0752 or 453-3633, or Sheryl Temple (Zamboanga City) at tel. number (062) 992-4115.

Inquirer-April 26 & 28, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HANDICRAFT DESIGNERS

- With extensive training/experience in designing high quality novelty & Christmas decorative products
- Quality conscious, service-oriented, adaptable and can work under pressure
- Opportunity to be based in ShenZhen China
- High salary package
- Must be a graduate of B.S. Fine Arts

Interview will be held at: CEO Executive Suites 72 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati.

Interested party may contact Mr. Berchtold on May 4 first thru Tel. No. (02) 897-7272. Please bring your curriculum vitaé and a possible sample artwork during interview.

HIRING!

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Male or Female, with pleasing personality
- ✓ Must be a graduate of any 4-year course preferably Marketing or Management
- ✓ Must have at least 2 years sales experience in freight forwarding and customs brokerage
- ✓ Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
- ✓ Ability to deal with people at all levels
- ✓ Good communication skills
- ✓ Dynamic, creative, assertive, energetic and results-driven
- ✓ Not more than 26 years old
- ✓ Single

Please bring your resumé and other credentials to:

Cyrus Logistics, Inc.
G/F Palm Plaza Hotel
Adriatico cor. Pedro Gil Sts.,
Malate, Manila

Franchise Asst. Manager
-M/F, 21-28 yrs. old,Mgt grad.or related bus.course
- work will involve personal selling & marketing of franchise program and manage franchise accts.
- work requires dev't and expansion of bus., & site selection for potential outlets.
- fluent in English & Filipino, willing to work wkends & field assignments.

Sales Representative
F, 21-28 yrs. old, college grad , with pleasing personality, fluent in English & Filipino, at least 5'2" in height.

MAIL RESUME TO:
Candy Corner Phils.
#3 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave.
Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
attn. GENERAL MGR
think@info.com.ph

WANTED URGENT!
23-32 years old, 2 years Experience

2 Mechanical or Elect. Sales Engr.
1 Sales Supervisor-marketing grad.
2 Field Sales Representative
1 Female Accountant/bookkeeper
2 Female Office clerk/encoder
3 Promaman

Apply at 2nd Flr.
644 Raja Matanda St., near Tutuban Center, Mla.
or call Sunshine at
Tel. #2477015 to 17

MKTI Pre-School
TEACHER
Experienced or MA in Ed
Call: **Annie**
895-8421

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES
is in need of

Information, Education and Communication Officer
for its Corridor Program in Sierra Madre

Job Description:

The position is responsible to spearhead the implementation of Information, Communication and Education program of Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor Program. The position requires an extensive travel in different remote areas of corridor provinces; and it requires a close collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders in the areas. The stakeholders include among others the people's organizations, local government units, and government agencies. The Communication Specialist and SMBC Program Manager supervise the position.

The specific duties and responsibilities includes but not limited to the following:

- Leads biodiversity awareness campaign on selected communities in the nine provinces covered by corridor;
- Designs and develops awareness campaign materials such as brochures, posters and other IEC materials;
- Provide necessary information and significant data for project conceptualization, technical report and other information significant to CI operations and strategy;
- Maintains database/information system for Sierra Madre Biodiversity.

Minimum Qualifications:

The candidates should possess the following criteria:

- Master Degree on Communication or any other related course; or with at least four years related work experience;
- Must be fluent in English and Tagalog. Knowledge on Ilocano is an advantage;
- Must have an experience on database maintenance;
- With good communications and writing skills;
- Good human relations; flexible; results-oriented; can work under pressure;
- Physically fit and willing to travel anytime in all areas covered by the corridor;
- Willing to be relocated to Tuguegarao, Isabela.

Please mail your application with comprehensive resumé not later than May 10, 2002 to:

The Human Resource
Conservation International
5 South Lawin, Philam Homes, Quezon City
or email: cimanila@csi.com.ph

NO PHONE CALLS

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

April 23, 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture is inviting interested Filipino Contractors or firms with valid licenses issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified as Category A or higher, to apply for prequalification and submit bids for the construction of its new Regional Centers in Mariano Marcos State University at Batac, Ilocos Norte, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University at Rosario, La Union and West Visayas State University at La Paz, Iloilo City. Preference will be given to local Contractors.

Both License and Certificate must be unexpired before the prequalification, evaluation, after opening of bids and during the entire duration of the project.

The sequence of dates for carrying out this prequalification and bid shall be as follows:

1. Issuance of Pre-C Forms, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00, May 6 to 10, 2002 at the Office of the Executive Director. Incomplete applications shall not be accepted.
2. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements is on May 7, 2002.
3. Notice of prequalified and prediqualified contractors will be issued not later than June 14, 2002. Only prequalified contractors shall be invited to submit proposals.
4. Issuance of Bid-Tender forms, Plans Specifications and Requirements Forms, June 17 to 21, 2002 at the Office of the Executive Director, upon payment of P1,500.00 which amount is non-refundable.
5. Pre-Bidding conference is scheduled at 10:00 A.M. on August 5, 2002 at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City.
6. Submission of duly accomplished bid-tender and supplemental documents shall not be later than 10:00 A.M. on August 20, 2002, at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City after which the opening of bids will be done immediately.

All particulars relative to the prequalification, bid bond, pre-bid conference, evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the project to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Chairman
Prequalification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--April 28, 29 & 30, 2002)

LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

Quezon Avenue Extension, Quezon City 1100
PHILIPPINES
Tel. +63 (2) 924-6101 to 04
Fax: +63 (2) 924-0707 / 925-2021
Email: lung_ctr@philonline.com

The Department of Thoracic Surgery & Anesthesia of the Lung Center of the Philippines is now accepting applicants for 1st year fellow in its Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery training program.

Requirements:
1. Licensed Filipino Physician
2. Completed an Accredited General Surgery training program and is eligible for or certified by PBS
3. Good physical & mental health
4. Good moral character attested by at least 2 previous trainers
5. Certifications:
   a. Transcript of records
   b. Medical school diploma
   c. Physician licensure examination
   d. General Surgery training certificate
   e. Philippine Board of Surgery Exam (if available)
6. Letter of recommendation from Chairman & Training Officer where applicant obtained his general Surgery training.

Apply at the Department of Thoracic Surgery & Anesthesia, Lung Center of the Philippines at the Medical Staff Office, 2nd Floor (look for Heather Calanog). For further details call **9246101** loc. **403/236.**

Win ₱25,000 this week!

Just answer the Text to Millions Pinoy Entertainment trivia questions on your SMART celfone.

SMART is looking for bright men and women who are very much into Pinoy Entertainment Trivia. Those who are interested can join SMART zed's TEXT to Milll,ooo,ooons quiz game.You all get a chance to win ₱25,000 in 9 weekly draws, ₱50,000 in 2 monthly draws and ₱1,000,000 in the Grand Draw!

Promo period is from April 1 to June 30, 2002.

How to join:

Key in QUIZspaceJOINspace<full name>/<address> and send to 288.
Ex. QUIZ JOIN Cel Villanueva/108 Herrera St., Makati City

SMART
Simply Amazing!

1) CADET ENGINEERS
- Graduate of any Engineering Course preferably M.E.
- Male or Female
- Must be proficient in Auto Cad Rel 14 or 2000.
- At least 2 years Related work experience in appliance industry

2) SALES ENGINEERS / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- Graduate of any 4 years course
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Closely allied w/ Architects, Engineers, Hardware & Contractors

Please send your comprehensive resumé to:
2/Flr. Sayoc Building 100, #93 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

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Experienced 4 colors HEIDELBERG offset operator with high pay
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

GARMENT MERCHANDISER

Garment buying office located in Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, seeks merchandiser to handle buying and development for major US retailers and brands, including one of the hottest and fastest growing menswear labels in the United States.

Candidate must have at least 5 years minimum experience in the industry and have a knowledge of both woven & knits cut & sew tops and bottoms.

Qualified applicants should fax their resumés to **Mrs. Luz Cruz**
Tel. Nos. **636-5562 / 637-9232** Fax Nos. **941-0669 / 637-9232**

BAUANG PRIVATE POWER CORPORATION
KM 255 Payocpoc Sur, Bauang, La Union

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF EXCESS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

"as is, where is"
Date of Bidding : 31 May 2002

Item	Quantity	Unit	Base Price
Mechanical Spare Parts			
1. Housing for Valve Drive (Spare for Sulzer Engine, 16ZAV 40S, Part No. KS44101)	103	pc	P 30,450.43/pc
2. Gasket for Lube Oil Heat Exchanger (Code No. 1735 1001, Brand-APV Baker, Type-H17 MGS 16/2) * 1 set has 130 pcs. gasket	6+	set	P 147,150.61/set
3. Bolt w/ nuts (20mm. dia. X 200mm long)	5,335	pc	P 73/pc
4. Motor for 21PI/24NI, Usable	20	unit	P 7,000/unit
5. Motor for 21PI/24NI, Defective	17	unit	P 2,000/unit
Specifications of the 21P1 Motor			
Trademark	LS Leroy Somer		
Code	LS 200 LT		
Type	Foot Mounted		
Phase	3-Phase		
Volts	440 Delta at 60 Hz, .67 PF, 55.7 Amperes 460 Volts at 60 Hz, .85 PF, 55.4 Amperes 480 Volts at 50 Hz, .82 PF, 55.0 Amperes		
Protection Class	IP 55		
Insulation Class	F		
Kilowatt	34		
RPM	1755		
Specifications of the 24N1 Motor			
Trademark	LS Leroy Somer		
Code	F 132MM		
Phase	3-Phase		
Volts	230 Delta/460 Wye		
Amperes	32.4 Amps		
Frequency	60 Hz		
Protection Class	IP 55		
Insulation Class	F		
Kilowatt	11		
RPM	1750		
Temp	40C		
Service Factor	S1		
Bearings	NDE 6208 2ZC3 DE 6306 2ZC3		
6. Elbow B.I., 90 deg. X DN 100-500, Sched. 30 & 40	791	pc.	P30-P5,048/pc
7. Flange, Slip-On, DN 65 X 76.1	21	pc	P178/pc
8. Flange, Butt-End, DN 25	66	pc	P70/pc
9. Flange, Flat, DN 40-220, 4-8 Holes	545.	pc	P62-P630/pc
10.Reducers, Concentric, DN 250 x 200/250 x 150/	52	pc	P759-P2,186/pc
11.Caps, B.I. DN 250	37	pc	P2,400/pc
12. Carboys, Black, empty 20 kg.	1,744	pc	P15/pc

Sealed bids in the prescribed form* shall be received until 31 May 2002, 4PM at the BPPC Head Office with address at the 2nd Floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig, MM c/o Mr. Dean B. Rivera (Tel. No. 449-54-09) or at the BPPC Plant Site (address above) c/o Mr. Joseph B. Soriano (Tel. No. 631-80-24 local BPPC Site or at (072) 705-20-77 to 81).

* Bid forms, additional information and requests for inspection may be secured from the abovementioned personnel at the addresses and telephone numbers provided.

BPPC reserves the right to reject any or all of the offers, to waive any formality found therein and to accept/reject such offers as may be considered most advantageous to its interest. BPPC further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense that they may have incurred in joining this nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of BPPC shall be final and binding.

FOR THE BPPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
(Sgd) R. P. DIFUNTORUM
Chairman

(PDI - April 28, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BONDOC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Management Office
Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed for the following projects:

1. Rehabilitation of 14 kms. Farm to Market Road in Buenavista, Quezon
2. Irrigation Projects a) Brgy. Sta. Maria Ibaba, Gen. Luna, Quezon
   b) Brgy. San Nicolas, Macalelon, Quezon
   c) Brgy. Cambuga, Mulanay, Quezon

Prequalification forms, complete details and particulars of the abovementioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO, Governor Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 from **May 14-16, 2002.**

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liaison Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before **May 17, 2002.**

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bidding conference on **May 27, 2002** at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEPRIANO J. PUNZALAN**
PBAC-Chairman

(PDI - April 26, 27 & 28, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Manila

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids for the procurement and delivery of various hospital supplies and materials and Hospital Services for Second Semester CY, 2002.

Only responsible and duly licensed/accredited suppliers and/or exclusive distributors are qualified to participate

Bidding documents can be secured at the Secretariat, SLH BAC, Office of the Administrative Officer V, 2nd floor Administration Building, SLH, Sta. Cruz, Manila, upon presentation of the following:

1. Authenticated DOH Suppliers Accreditation Certificate with the certified list of accredited products, if applicable;
2. Authenticated Certificate of Product Registration (For Drugs and Medicines/Laboratory/Medical Supplies;
3. Authenticated copy of License to Operate (DTI/Mayor's permit).

And upon presentation of a non-refundable fee as indicated per category/item (Drugs & Medicines - P1,000.00; Lab/Medical Supplies - P500.00 cash. Dietary foodstuff/Maintenance Supplies - P300.00 each & Dental/Office/janitorial supplies - P200.00 each);

Particulars	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Hospital Supplies & Materials:				
1. Various Drugs / Medicines	May 6-24, 2002	May 15, 2002 9:00 am	May 29, 2002 9:00 am	May 29, 2002 9:01 am
2. Various Laboratory Reagents/Supplies	May 6-24, 2002	May 15, 2002 2:00 pm	May 30, 2002 9:00 am	May 30, 2002 9:01 am
3. Various Medical Supplies	May 6-24, 2002	May 16, 2002 9:00 am	May 31, 2002 9:00 am	May 31, 2002 9:01 am
4. Various Dietary Foodstuff	May 6-24, 2002	May 22, 2002 9:00 am	June 5, 2002 9:00 am	June 5, 2002 9:01 am
5. Various Radiology Supplies	May 6-24, 2002	May 22, 2002 2:00 pm	June 5, 2002 2:00 pm	June 5, 2002 2:01 pm
6. Various Dental Supplies	May 6-24, 2002	May 22, 2002 3:00 pm	June 5, 2002 3:00 pm	June 5, 2002 3:01 pm
7. Various Maintenance Supplies	May 6, 24, 2002	May 23, 2002 9:00 am	June 6, 2002 9:00 am	June 6, 2002 9:01 am
8. Various Office and Janitorial Supplies	May 6-24, 2002	May 23, 2002 2:00 pm	June 6, 2002 2:00 pm	June 6, 2002 2:01 pm

All activities shall be held at the SLH Amphitheater Audio Visual Room, SLH Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total amount of bid, except for those categories wherein amount of Bid security is specified in the Bid documents.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat, SLH BAC at telephone Nos. 309-95-52 or 711-69-66 (telefax).

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Chairperson, SLH BAC

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **BENITO F. ARCA, MD, MPH**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI--April 21 & 28, 2002)

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Notice is hereby given that the following receipts have been lost since March 2002.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. ROWIL I. DELA CRUZ** whose picture appears above, ceased to be connected with **MAPECON PHILS., INC.** as of March 7, 2002.

Any transaction entered by Mr. Dela Cruz for and in behalf of MAPECON Phils., Inc. after March 7, 2002 shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--Apr. 28, 2002)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. RAMIRO P. VERGARA** whose picture appears above, ceased to be connected with **MAPECON PHILS., INC.** as of November 10, 2001.

Any transaction entered by Mr. Vergara for and in behalf of MAPECON Phils., Inc. after November 10, 2001 shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--Apr. 28, 2002)

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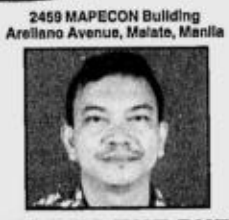

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. NILO C. CESARIO, JR.**, whose picture appears above, ceased to be connected with **MAPECON PHILS., INC.** as of March 4, 2002.

Any transaction entered by Mr. Cesario for and in behalf of MAPECON Phils., Inc. after March 4, 2002 shall not be honored by the company.

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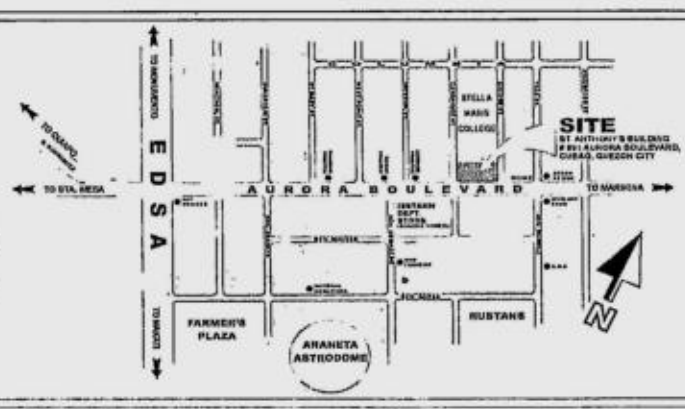

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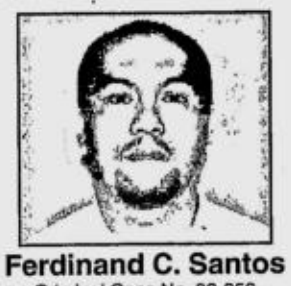

Ferdinand C. Santos
Criminal Case No. 02-656

A warrant of arrest has been issued by the RTC-NCR Branch 148 of Makati City on Ferdinand C. Santos, whose picture appears above, for the crime of **ESTAFA** (Art. 315 par. 1b) of the Revised Penal Code. His last known addresses are 818-B-7 Nepomuceno Street, Angeles City, Pampanga and #43 Molave St., Dona Justa Village, Phase II, Angono, Rizal.

A reward of **P50,000** shall be given to any person who could provide information that will lead to the arrest of the above person. Please contact:

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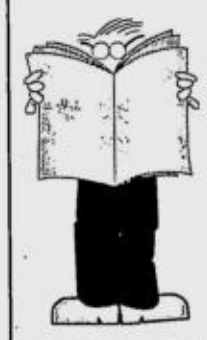

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Our Dearly Beloved

DR. ROSALIA C. DICHOSO-BUMANGLAG
"Choling"

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 26, 2002 at the age of 86.

Her late husband **Ambrosio Bumanglag** (†); brothers and sisters, **Socorro Dichoso Siazon** (†), **Elvira Dichoso** (†), **Pepito Dichoso** (†), **Manuel Dichoso** (†), **Isabel Dichoso, Julia Dichoso, Trinidad Dichoso-Macalisang, Carmencita Dichoso-Morales, Paula Dichoso-Torres, Alfredo Dichoso**; brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at First St. corner Sixth St., Trinidad Homes Subdivision, Manggahan Pasig City.

Her remains will be transferred to Tuguegarao City on April 29, 2002 and will lie in state at their residence in Amulong, Cagayan.

Interment will be on May 3, 2002 at the Sanctuary of Peace Memorial Gardens after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, Tuguegarao City.

Our Beloved

BRIGADIER GENERAL HONORIO G CAPULONG, AFP

The Judge Advocate General, AFP

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 20, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.
(GMT April 21, 2002 at 2:30 a.m.
at the U.C.L.A. Hospital, California, U.S.A.)
at the age of 59.

His bereaved wife **Lucila (Limmie)**; children **Ethel** & **Benjie Bonoan, Dax Teofisto** & **Jai Capulong, Ampy** & **Eugene Crisostomo**; grandchildren **Marion, Cole, Miggy, Sam** and **Justin**; parents **Dr. Teofisto M. Capulong** (deceased) & **Lydia Capulong-Arceo**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, cousins, in-laws and other relatives and friends request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Philippine Air Force Mortuary, Our Lady of All Nations, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Necrological Services will be on Monday, April 29, 2002 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Interment will be at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig on Tuesday, Apri 30, 2002 at 12:00 noon, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of All Nations Chapel.

DOLORES CHU LIM
of Binondo, Manila

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord and joined her beloved husband "LIM HIO (PIAO HIO)" on April 26, 2002 at the age of 88.

She is survived by her children **DRA. ERLINDA & DR. PATRICK LEH, LEONARDO & SALLY LIM, LIBERTY & CASTILLO ONG, WILLIAM & SALLY LIM, DR. RODOLFO & DRA. JOSEPHINE LIM**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 4, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.
I Corinthians 2:9

"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

We, the family of the late

Engr. Vicente Chua Limcueco, Jr.

Wish to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at his untimely demise on April 13, 2002.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to you all in knowing that he touched so many lives in his concern for others.

He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

Thank you very much.

Parents **VICENTE, SR.** and **MARY**;
Wife **LILY**; children **MARY JENNIFER, MARY JOAN** and **TAUTI**; **LAWRENCE, LANCELOT** and **JANET** (†),
Grandchildren **JOSHUA** and **JASMIN**; brothers and sisters **TITA** and **JOSEPH**, **LINDA, WILLIAM** and **LORNA**, and **AURORA**; nephews and nieces.

ISABEL GARCIA BALTAZAR

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on April 25, 2002 at the age of 82

at Valley Hospital, New York, USA

Her beloved husband, **Ret. Col. Estanislao "Balty" M. Baltazar, Sr. (PMA Class 1938) (†)** ; children, **Pat & Marie, Eddie & Erran, Balty, Jr., Pen & Tony, Beth & Willy, Ramon, Marilou & Monet**; grandchildren, **Ricky, Miguel, Jason & Sharon, Michael & David, Jon & Paul, Kenneth & Iselle, Marites, Cecille & Andrew, Michelle, Karissa, Isabel & Goyo,** request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 4, 2002 at St. Anthony's Cemetery, Nanuet, New York, USA.

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9 L32 Blk 30 / LA - 635 *Min Bid - P2,413,000*
10 L33 Blk 30 / LA - 715 *Min Bid - P2,717,000*
11 L27 Blk 36 / LA - 771 *Min Bid - P2,930,000*
12 L93 Blk 48 / LA - 783 *Min Bid - P2,976,000*
13 L58 Blk 50 / LA - 767 *Min Bid - P2,915,000*
14 L57 Blk 50 / LA - 480 *Min Bid - P1,824,000*
15 L55 Blk 50 / LA - 572 *Min Bid - P2,174,000*
16 L54 Blk 50 / LA - 638 *Min Bid - P2,425,000*
17 L53 Blk 50 / LA - 1,027 *Min Bid - P3,903,000*
18 L52 Blk 50 / LA - 540 *Min Bid - P2,052,000*
19 L51 Blk 50 / LA - 732 *Min Bid - P2,782,000*
20 L50 Blk 50 / LA - 627 *Min Bid - P2,383,000*
21 L49 Blk 50 / LA - 582 *Min Bid - P2,212,000*
22 L46 Blk 50 / LA - 630 *Min Bid - P2,394,000*

NON-FAIRWAY LOTS

23 L14 Blk 16 / LA - 828 *Min Bid - P2,484,000*
24 L53 Blk 17 / LA - 811 *Min Bid - P2,433,000*
25 L30 Blk 30 /LA -1,025 *Min Bid - P3,075,000*
26 L9 Blk 37 /LA - 672 *Min Bid - P2,016,000*
27 L35 Blk 37 /LA - 687 *Min Bid - P2,061,000*
28 L49 Blk 37 /LA - 784 *Min Bid - P2,352,000*
29 L12 Blk 38 /LA - 653 *Min Bid - P1,959,000*

ORCHARD REAL ESTATE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE — NON-FAIRWAY LOTS

30 L2 Blk 43 /LA - 690 *Min Bid - P2,070,000*
31 L3 Blk 43 /LA - 855 *Min Bid - P2,565,000*
32 L6 Blk 45 /LA - 1,085 *Min Bid - P3,255,000*
33 L7 Blk 45 /LA - 752 *Min Bid - P2,256,000*
34 L67 Blk 48 /LA - 508 *Min Bid - P1,520,000*
35 L23 Blk 49 /LA - 579 *Min Bid - P1,737,000*
36 L59 Blk 50 /LA - 513 *Min Bid - P1,539,000*
37 L60 Blk 50 /LA - 513 *Min Bid - P1,539,000*
38 L9 Blk 54 /LA - 388 *Min Bid - P1,165,000*

Sta. Maria, Bulacan — Sunrays Village

39 Res.H&L- L3 B1 /LA-84 *Min Bid - P250,000*
40 Res Lot-L4 Blk 1 /LA-84 *Min Bid - P120,000*
41 Res.Lot-L7 Blk 1 /LA-84 *Min Bid - P120,000*
42 Res.Lot- L8 B1 /LA - 84 *Min Bid - P120,000*
43 Res. Lot -L9 B1/ LA - 89 *Min Bid - P126,000*
44 Res Lot- L10 B1/LA - 89 *Min Bid - P126,000*
45 Res.Lot- L1 B3/LA - 154 *Min Bid - P220,000*
46 Res Lot- L2 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
47 Res Lot- L4 B2/LA - 92 *Min Bid - P130,000*
48 Res Lot- L6 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
49 Res Lot- L8 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
50 Res Lot- L10 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
51 Res Lot- L12 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
52 Res Lot- L13 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*
53 Res.Lot- L14 B2/LA - 70 *Min Bid - P100,000*

ANTIPOLO

54 Res'l. Lot - L6 B4 Mission Hills Blvd., Sta. Barbara I Mission Hills Subd./LA-1,062 *Min Bid - P2,900,000*
55 Res'l. Lot - L17 B1 Beverly St. Sta. Barbara I, Mission Hills / LA-1,021 *Min Bid - P2,750,000*

MANDALUYONG

56 Res'l. Condo - Unit 2002B 20/F Wack-Wack Tower Wack-wack Rd./FA-154.8 *Min Bid - P 5,000,000*

SAN JUAN

57 Res'l. Condo - Unit 1203 Platinum2000, AnnapolisSt. Greenhills/ FA-113.6 *Min Bid - P3,500,000*

QUEZON CITY

58 T'house/ Unit A-2,5BR, 5TB w/ attic & gar Baler Luxury T'house, Baler St., SFDM LA 183 / FA 244 *Min.Bid-P4,900,000*
59 T'house/ Unit A-7,4BR, 6TB w/ attic & gar Baler Luxury T'house, LA 106 / FA 179 *Min.Bid-P3,300,000*
60 T'house/ Unit A-8,4BR, 4TB w/ attic & gar Baler Luxury T'house, LA 129 / FA 258 *Min.Bid-P4,800,000*
61 Res.T'house-2sty,2BR 2TB w/ ter & attic Lot3 Along Road Lot 3 Capitol Estates II LA 63.5 / FA 162.8 *Min. Bid -P2,460,000*

CAINTA

62 Res'l. T'hse-Unit C 3rd St. Cruar Subd./ LA-36 FA-67.5 *Min Bid - P 426,000*

VALENZUELA

63 Res'l. Apartment - 2sty 4 units 92 Int G. Marcelo St. Maysan / LA-200 *Min Bid - P 1,320,000*
64 Res'l H&L -1sty/No. 23 St. Prince Sam Villa Subd..Malinta/ LA-152 *Min Bid - P 1,500,000*

CAVITE

65 H&L -1sty,2BR L1 B88 Cityhomes Resortville Ph2 Dasma / LA-77 FA-36 *Min Bid - P292,000*
66 Apartment -2sty L4 B16 Gatmaitan St., Woodsite Imus /LA-42 FA-42 *Min Bid - P243,000*
67 Res'l. T'house - L1 B23 Alcante St. Town & Country Bacoor / LA-56 FA-67.5 *Min Bid - P750,000*

TAGUIG

68 H&L - #6 Elizco Rd. Bo. Tipaz / LA-181 FA-321.15 *Min Bid - P2,100,000*

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

69 Comm'l /Res Apartment 5units, 2sty L9A & L9B 1881 A-E Milagros (Reposo) cor.N. Garcia Sts TLA 455 / TFA 691 *Min. Bid-P14,000,000*
70 Commercial Lot Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Marconi Street TLA- 472
71 *Min. Bid-P20,200,000* Vacant Lot - 3904 Quinquia St., Pinag-kaisahan / LA 612 *Min.Bid-P15,300,000*

TAGUIG

72 Ind'l. Lot- Lot2-B-1-A-1 Perfecto Drive, Sta. Maria Industrial Estate, Bagbaguin LA - 2,920 *Min.Bid-P13,800,000*

KALOOKAN

73 Comm'l Warehouse 2 storey / #428-10th Avenue, Grace Park LA 480 / FA 847 *Min. Bid -P6,100,000*

PASIG

74 Off. Condo-Unit 2004 OMM CITRA Condo, San Miguel Ave./ FA - 153.64 *Min.Bid-P8,200,000*

QUEZON CITY

75 Com'l./Res'l.Bldg - 4sty unfnshd/ 394-A Sangandaan, Nova. LA-218 / FA-721 *Min.Bid-P4,100,000*

MANILA

76 Com'l./Res'l.Bldgs. 1931&1933 Rizal Ave. LA-675 / FA-2,457 *Min.Bid-P35,100,000*
77 Lot w/ w'house & office Int Rd. Alunan St.Pasay NLA-1,381.9/FA-772.3 *Min.Bid-P35,000,000*
78 Dormitory 3-sty/ 352 M.F. Jhocson St. Mla. (On short-term lease) LA 489.3/TFA 1,620.5 *Min.Bid-P18,600,000*

TARLAC

79 Com'l. Lot Rizal corner Panganiban Sts /LA-2 981 *Min.Bid-P31,000,000*

BATANGAS

80 Com'l. lot w/ whses * J. Gonzales St., Tanauan LA-47,960 / TFA-2,831 *Min.Bid-P44,850,000*

* w/ on-going case

JUST BRING P20,000 SHOW MONEY FOR EACH PROPERTY AWARDED!!! (Cash or MC)

UnionBank may at any time withdraw any of the properties prior to auction date

* Above properties for sale on "as is where is" basis.

SALE

BINONDO

TRADERS BUILDING
4 stories located at
275-277 Juan Luna corners Ingreso and Muelle de Binondo Sts,
Binondo, Manila
Lot Area: 482 sqm
P46,500 per sqm, negotiable

PASAY

2162 F.B. Harrison
San Juan District, Pasay City
Lot Area: 6,143 sqm
P26,000 per sqm, negotiable

Contact:
Manila Realty Corporation
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero St. corner Sedeño
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Telephone 8131058
Monday to Friday; 9am to 5pm

COMML/RESDL

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

150sqm 2BR 2TB 776-4676

New Spcly Built 4BR Rest House Cottage Type Flood & Fault Line Safe 390m² Pvt. Lot 4Car Garage Call or Text 5414722/(0918)5288257

MAKATI

Kasiyahan Hms Frbs Prk 3br + Atic 391m² P22M 7226578 / 7240394 lb 8387820

Palm Vill 3BR/2TB 09175406270

MANILA

Apt. 1unit 60m² Sta Mesa 714-5514

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

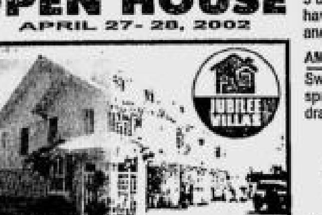
Mkna Hls 60m² 2BR P500T 9415112/0917-6196773

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 27- 28, 2002



PHASE 1 COMPLETED • READY FOR OCCUPANCY • ONLY TWO UNITS LEFT
• NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR PHASES 2 & 3
90 BANLAT ROAD, TANDANG SORA, QUEZON CITY
HLURB LIC. TO SELL 04012

FEATURES
3 bedroom with 2 toilets and bath; living, dining and kitchen areas: some units have an attic and a powder room; maid room with toilet and bath; a laundry area; and, a choice of a1 or 2-car garage.

AMENITIES
Swimming pool and recreation area; landscaped entrance gate & common open spaces; telephone and cable-TV provisions; underground electrical, water and drainage facilities; secured compound with concrete perimeter fence.

AVAIL OF OUR GREAT DEALS

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ZITRO REAL ESTATE
TEL. NOS.: 751-5472•818-2781
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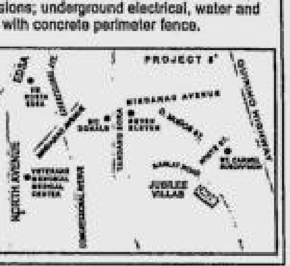
Web: www.jubileevillas.com



HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE
WEST TRIANGLE
QUEZON CITY PRIME AREA
LOT AREA : 630 SQ.M.
FLR. AREA : 1,200 SQ.M.
3-STOREYS PLUS ATTIC
FULLY FURNISHED, 8 BEDRMS
12 T&B PLUS MAIDS QUARTERS & DRIVERS QUARTERS
WITH 6 CAR GARAGE
W/ SPECIAL AMENITIES:
- OFFICE / LIBRARY
- GYM, SAUNA, JACUZZI, STEAM BATH
- MULTI-PURPOSE GAZEBO
- ELEVATOR
CALL 3723206
3719702 TO 04
4108367 TO 69

MARIKINA

NEAR ATENEO UP
2STY 5BR ANN • 929-4145

PARANAQUE

Bung LA300m² 3BR2TB Qtrs w/ TB H²O Gdn 8230256 8235660

United Hills 512m² 5BR 4TB 4CG 8M • #0917-3437085

PASIG

★ NO DP ★
Mercedes H/L - Pasig P1.4M Call 643-8927 • 916-4414

Rosario LA630 FA180 4BR 3TB MdsRm 655-0695 0916-5320628

Valle Verde I P18M Nego 7212804 / 0917-5407682

QUEZON CITY

212LA 105FA 4BR 2TB 111 Ilocos Sur St. Bago Bantay Q.C. 09178392388

L600 Visayas Ave, QC Comml Lot w/Income • 929-8376

LA624m² SFDM QC wHse 2Sty 4BR w/Office 929-8376

LA280m² Apo St. Sta Mesa Hgt Old Hse • 929-8376

LA411 D.Tuazon SMH QC 2Sty 0919-4024987 929-8376

LA471 Congressional Ave. Comml QC • 929-8376

LA1000 New Mla QC Old Hse 929-8376 • 0919-4024987

LA800 Mindanao Ave. Q.C. Comml Lot w/hse 929-8376

LA480 Mayon St. QC Comml Neg SMH • 929-8376

3.7 Hectares Antipolo Poultry Direct Buy 929-8376

L258 New Mla Rollin Hill 2Sty 5br w/ t&b 929-8376

CAPITOL HILLS LA150 2.6M
912-6273 / 913-5092

DON JOSE QC
NR FAIRVIEW-100 OCAAMPO Bnew LA200 FA234 T-6330092

Finvst 4BR BN 3.5M 3732855

★Nr UP ATENEO QC 6.5M 18 Mahabagin Teachers Vill 5BR4TB Call 913-2701 ; 09192829330 ; 913-2403

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS CHOICE LOTS with VIEW 929-1032 • 426-5650

New Mla. 1231 sqm w/Pool Nice 2Stry Hse 0917-7541545

Nr UP 3BR 2TB P2.2M /Terms Tel 9310685

Rush! Fully Furnished Near SM North 926-4889

SM NORTH BNEW 9263307

T. SORA BUNG
SALE P2.9M
3BR 2TB 232m²
T9251467/9251496

VARIOUS AREAS

FILINVEST HOMES
Quezon City, Cainta, Antipolo

3 Bedroom, 2 Toilet/Bath Carport, Roofdeck P488T D/P 6 mos. Bal. 5-15 yrs. at P25T/mo.
CRESTER REALTY
418-2522, 417-1948
937-7580, 0917-531-7882

QUEZON CITY

Tierra Bella LA-351 FA-178 3BR 3TB 10.6M Neg 931-5553

SAN JUAN

•GREENHILLS WEST•
FRONTING XAVIER HS, 2STY CONC. HSE 6BR/7TB W/MAIDS RM.DRIVERS RM 9CG Business Allowed Cash/Terms T: 722-1832

RIZAL

Nr Antipolo Church LA 346 FA 150 Call 634-1212

Safe of Flood and Faultline
NR ORTIGAS EXT
RIDGMONT Exec Cainta New strong FRENCH 3BR 2c'port Bung nr ent gate Lot:172m² 2.2M 9488240

PROVINCIAL

450m² Vielago1 Visayas Ave, 5BR 4Car Garage 929-8376

Gapan City P600T 5413174

LOT

LAS PINAS

240sq.m SAV17 Talon4 Call 801-5747 CP#09163482280

MAKATI

Santillan St. Pio del Pilar MAKATI-260sqm
CALL RICKY 0919-4305681

MANILA

172.50sqm; San Marcelino Street, Malate, Manila Cecille:536-4358/59 /64 DIRECT BUYERS ONLY

• CATALUNA NR ESPANA • 650m² 0917-5320224

Oroquieta 400m² 7271417 Noemi

MARIKINA

140m² P3000/m² 9404354;09196471914 Cor

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREEN-HEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PARANAQUE

282m² Ireneville 3 Sucat 897-1126 (0917)8340747

United Hills 631m²; Posadas Vill. 600m² • #0917-3437085

PASIG

Greenwoods 160M² 6350219

LOT

FOR SALE
CEBU CITY LOT
INDUSTRIAL 3 CITY ZONING SUITABLE FOR: FACTORY, SUBDIVISION, SCHOOL, HOSPITAL, ETC.; AREA - 18,546 SQ.M. (W/VACANT ADJACENT LOTS FOR EXPANSION)
- 4 KMS. FROM CITY HALL; 6 KMS. FROM THE PROVINCIAL CAPITOL; 250 METERS FROM THE SOUTH RECLAMATION; 30 METERS ADJACENT HIGHWAY OPENING
- FULLY DEVELOPED, FENCED AND LANDSCAPED WITH
- ABUNDANT POTABLE UNDER-GROUND WATER WITH 2 DEEP WELL PUMPS.

For inquiries CALL (032) 261-9910/ 261-9921 or CALL CELL NO. 09173217694.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE
1. TANZA, CAVITE WITH VIEW OF BAY 6.5 HAS. P1,100/sq.m. Neg. to direct buyers, WITH FENCE, NO TENANTS, CLEAN TITLE.
2. CUYAMBAY, TANAY, RIZAL 12.2 HECTARES, CLEAN TITLE. On the corner of the Marikina/Infanta Hi-way, and National Road going to Cuyambay proper. Gently rolling terrain. Fenced. P170/sq.m.
3. FILINVEST 1 QUEZON CITY 300 sq.m. corner lot - Fuji and Vernon at P7,500/sq.m. nice location.

Call 817-5922, 815-2975 Beth. Monday-Friday, office hours only or text only (0917) 527-2491.

PASIG

•Greenwoods P6,000/sqm Call Tina 638-6505 / 721-2804

Prime Lot Green Park 300m² near Robinson's 9316928 Net

QUEZON CITY

BATASAN, Filinv 2, P3,000/SQ 300 SQ, 5 yrs-pay, 242-1521

Bluedridge A 357/714m² Infrnt Park Call 647-1150

• Bonifacio 400sqm 6425663

LA1000 Fairview QC V-Lot 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

LA932 Baesa QC VLot 4Ind. 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

LA800 Del Monte Ave. VLot corner Lot • 929-8376

LA4000 Baler St QC V-Lot 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

LA406 Short Horn Proj. 8 Comml Lot V.Lot • 929-8376

CAPITOL HILLS LA100 P504T 9126273 / 9135092

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160 Pay 20%(In 2 months) Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB 150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @ P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs Term w/ Complete Facilities 9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

•New Manila•
3,300m² P19T/m² Neg. cor. Lot 7226578 / 7240394 lb 8387820

•NEW MANILA For Twnhouse• 995sqm 0917-5320224

•LA VISTA SUBD.• 1,274sqm near Clubhouse 09175320224

Antplo 300m² 4T/m² terms 3732855

RIZAL

CAINTA LOT 4 SALE
AREA-200 SQ.METERS
CAINTA GREENLAND SUBD.
Tel.No.6420535/8964291

Ridgemont Exec Vill Taytay 220m² 655-0695 0916-5320628

VALLEYVIEW EXEC Village ANTIPOLO 2 Lots 120sqm @ P3500/sqm neg. Cool Place O'looking Tel 9137943 Mir

• VVCH Cainta 247m² 6425663

SAN JUAN

Nr. UERM 1,060m² T744-3465

SN MAURICIO Leo 727.3159

PROVINCIAL

45 HECTARES FARM LOT
Davao City • 929-8376

Dasma, Cavite 5.2 H.
Gov. Drive 7226578 / 7240394

Lot Bangkal Lapu-Lapu 1000 sq.mtrs •T-0205935•

★METRO, BAGUIO★80m²up DP20Tup P2,200 ma 4198102

RUSH! Ideal 4 Resort Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Toby

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

★TAGAYTAY OVERLOOKING★ View Taal&Golf H-way 291m² P6750/m² Cash or 15% down Free Club Share 9129680 Kat

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER AREAS

• SACRIFICE SALE •
Metro Tagaytay Subd.
Canyon Woods Ph 3
Fairway Lot 328 sqm.
Facing Golf Course
Owner to Absorb 30%
Loss Over Payments Made
Call 8022067 8008850
Cell (0919)4227245

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

2BDRM CITILAND MAGALLANES
GOOD PRICE •776-6018•

• Kasiyahan Hms Frbs Prk 3br Attic 391m² P22M
• Rufino Twrs, Ayala 212m² w/3 Prkng P45T/m² Neg. 7226578 / 7240394 Gib 8387820

Rush Sale Cityland 9, Dela Rosa Condo 1BR-33Sq.m with parking Call #0917-8458915

MANILA

Own Condo Unit in Mla.
Only 10T 2 reserve. Nr. Ortigas, San Juan Mdluyong & QC w/ 1st class amenities. Open House today. Call 716-7035; 716-7044

RFO AFFORDABLE CONDO FACING MLA. BAY 531-3538

RUSH Condo 58m² 5237829

Singalong St. Malate Manila 320M² Call Ricky 0919-4385681

MANDALUYONG

•8 Wak Wak PBM Unit 30 H Fong Golf Crs 149m² + 2 Pkng •Paragon Plaza, Edsa Unit 2302 103.35 w/ 1Pkng P30T/m² 7226578 / 7240394 Gib 8387820

SACRIFICE SALE WACK 2 TOWER I 97.75sqm Inc PK SF 3.5M net 032-2311188/ 0917-3984494 Fely

PASIG

FA 127 2br 2tb 1 Parking Crisanta Twr Call 634-1212

Pacific Place
Nr. Tektite, Pearl Dr. Ortigas Ctr. 88R 1MR Furnished 2Tel Rent Sale • 687-3598 / 0917-8186318

Pasig Thses BNew w/term Nr. Ortigas / Mkt 916-2034

•Renesans Twr D 3br FA-249m² w/2 Pkng P7.5M Best Buy!!! • Richmnd Plaza Hotel Ofis Cndo Units 705-72.5 / 705-133.6 P35T/m² Neg. 7226578 / 7240394 Gib 8387820

Rnaisance 1BR 2.9M 4305249

T-hse 4Sale LA-88m² FA-280m² 3br 4tb w/2Prkng 634-1212

VV Mansions FA132 2BR 3TB 2Prg FF 5M 0918-9039172

QUEZON CITY

1.4M Cullat 2Stry 2BR 1T&B Call 813-7592

158 sqm 3br 3tb P4M St. Ignatius Call 634-1212

•50Rt 70 move in • flex term 0% nr Ateneo UP St Lukes Movers 4210734 4213223 09194076857Agent Welcome

Cubao Condo P1.4M 10% DP P22/mo 09163427327 Nelfa

PANAY AVE. FA115m²
2BR 2TB with Maids Room, Car Park, Fully Furnished Call 374-2572 • 0917-4032151

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

XAVIERVILLE Townhouse LA55m² FA100m² P2.3M Direct Only 911-5745

RIZAL

Mrcos HW 3BR 2.7M & 3.2M Bnew Terms w/pool 3732855

SAN JUAN

4 Sale 1.6M 26sqm 6412863

RUSH !!!
Promenade Place SJ Townhse 3 Storey 186m² 3BR 2.5TB 4AC Kitchn Appliances, Heater 2Cargarage 5Min Greenhills 5.5M 09178334323 7215703

PROVINCIAL

2-STOREY TOWNHOUSE
5ht Assume Balance
Calamba Laguna •T-8205935•

OTHER AREAS

Brand New 2-Units Town Hse Goodwill Homes 1 640-8448 R-nel

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class CONN'L-OFFICE REF'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER!
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES
NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo, UP, Miriam, Xoloka, PBBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO. to any part of M. Mla.
3. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropo-lis w/roof-top B. POOL & Garden
4. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED BUY & TRANSFER NOW! SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
FOR BUSY INVESTORS / BUSINESSMEN WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9:00p.m.
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL#: 922-4484 / 921-4883
TEL#: 433-7668 / 433-8842

Centro Plaza

Below 1M Q.C. Condo near Timog 10 mos. 0% Int. DP Bal. 10 yrs.
Call: 426-9020/30; 415-6484

MAKATI

RUSH SALE
5 Bedroom Townhouse
3 Toilet and Bath / 2 Car Garage
Secured location
5 minutes away to Ayala
12.5 negotiable - furnished
10.5 negotiable - Unfurnished
Please call 895-9920/ 899-5462
Look for Bong or Monet

MEMORIAL LOT

• Heritage Memorial Park • Lawn Garden Estate 9298376

HERITAGE 7120038/0270/0229

HIMLAYAN 4LOTS 4547448 ARNOLD

Himlayang Pilipino 9125847

RESORT

★ZAMBALES★near beach w/hse 2M 0916-3741571

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Club Filipino Share for Sale Call Lissel at 6372044

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

2-UNITS BR COVERED GARAGE Tel# 801-5747

MAKATI

Apt. 4 Rent TEL 8954370

Yague La Paz •895-5699•

MANILA

1 BR 1 TB LR / KIT 4500 / MO
2BR 2 TB LR / KIT 7500 / MO
TDO NEW H2O 2546898 BEN

1Flat 2BR 8T nr CSB Max 5poor No Prkg Space 2349 Espiritu St. Singalong •T5236124 Fely/Lea•

MANDALUYONG

2BR CG w/Tel 10T 531-0965

MARIKINA

Vermont Royale nr Sta Lucia Contact 7164254 Dhel Mana

PARANAQUE

Apt 4 Rent near Jaka Sucat 8251145 09193341556

PASIG

2 Bedroom Up & Down
Strong H2O Newly Painted
Call Julius/Cora • 628-1580

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MEMORIAL LOT

MEMORIAL LOTS FOR SALE!

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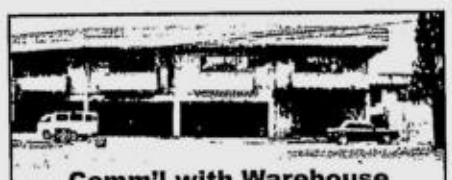

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Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).
Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.
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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

The 'Spidermen' of YDS at CCP

HAVE YOU been dreaming of becoming a wall-sneaking superhero like Spiderman someday? Well, it's not so much of a dream for Youth Day Summit participants, because they will be experiencing such in this summer 2002 training.

The Central Colleges of the Philippines, host school of this year's YDS, its building and structures, will turn into abseiling spots this whole summer. Apart from self-awareness, teamwork, creativity, leadership and survival skills learned in joining YDS, participants will also get a crash course in rappelling, a method of descending from a higher elevation like mountains and buildings to a lower elevation by using ropes and other paraphernalia. The activity is assisted by rappelling expert Teng Paez, the physical education instructor of CCP.

There are various ways of rappelling. The basic, or standard rappel, Australian rappel, the Tyrolean rappel, and the most exciting Spider or lizard rappel, done with the body in a vertically inverted position with the head descending first. We can imagine Spiderman peeping through windows using this technique.

CCP professor and YDS founder Cornelio Buenaventura stressed that rappelling isn't just an exciting sport, but also a relevant rescue skill that everyone should take time to learn. Buenaventura also believes that action is eloquence. Through experiential learning and exertion of skills, a person develops self confidence and eliminates, if not reduces, acrophobia (fear of heights).

YDS is an annual event that congregates 1,000 thoroughly selected students from different schools such as Ateneo, DLSU, San Beda, UST, UP, CCP, and UE. It aims to instill greater appreciation of home and family, as well as improve the ability to face challenges and adversity amidst a rapidly changing world. For inquiries, call the YDS office at 715-3777.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER AT NORTHWESTERN MEET

Presidential Adviser for Strategic Projects Gloria TanClimaco, MBA '82 (fourth from left), was guest of honor and speaker before her fellow alumni at the Northwestern Alumni Club at Manila Golf recently. TanClimaco, former chair of SGV and director of Equitable-PCIBank, discussed her role in reviewing certain controversial government contracts—such as the Janeco Garbage Disposal and Piatco Terminal—and recommending renegotiations. In attendance were (seated, from left) Club secretary Czar Yatco, Clarissa Gonzalez, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza, Club president Dennis Valdes, Olive Montecillo-Villafuerte and Laura Lim. Standing (from left) were Robbie Antonio, Tim Renn, Chris Lim, Iking Fernandez, Club treasurer Trix Guerrero and Greg Navarro.

GMA AT TOWER CLUB OPENING

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor at the grand opening of the Tower Club. She unveiled the Tower Club marker located at the 33rd floor of the Philam Life Tower in Makati City. Shown from left were Frank Evaristo, Alay Lakad Foundation president and Jose Cuisia, Jr., president and CEO of Philam Life Insurance and Tower Club's vice chair.

AFPRESCOM 9TH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the 9th anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command, a parade and review was held in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as guest of honor and speaker. Shown at the reception was Villanueva with Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus, PAG Commander, Col. Godofredo Rabara, AFPRescom Commander, and Capt. Panfilo Villareal, NRAA president.

Solaris film, Apsop in grand Puerto Azul bridal shootout

PROFESSIONAL and amateur photographers will have a chance to put their creativity into action as the Association of Photo Studio Owners of the Philippines (Apsop) and Solaris film spearhead a big event in Puerto Azul.

The "Puerto Azul—Bridal Shootout" is slated on April 30 and May 1. Renowned fashion designers Edwin Uy and David Ocampo will unveil their latest bridal fashion as high caliber models, including beauty queens, give life to their creation.

Apsop members and other top wedding photographers will work together to transform the stunning beauty of their models into one-of-a-kind photos. Select photographs for this shootout will grace the pages of the Lights & Camera May/June bridal issue.

For more details, call the Apsop Secretariat at 887-4151, Alex So at 244-1295, Charlie Ramos at 911-6798 and Lito Briones at 373-2873.

Buy Pinoy support

IN RESPONSE to the challenge of boosting the local economy through the Buy Pinoy movement, Asiaco Enterprises International Corp., a pioneer and leader in wire basket manufacturing in the country, recently presented its latest line of locally designed and manufactured kitchen and room organizers during the 7th World Building Construction Exposition (WorldBex 2002).

According to Richard Lumagui, Asiaco's marketing manager, these products are fully manufactured in the Philippines by the company's highly skilled and consistently trained workers and are designed for organizing kitchen and room closets, especially those with limited space.

"It fits the simple yet classy lifestyle of today's homeowners and interior designers with impeccable taste," Lumagui added.

He said these pullout wire baskets come in two models—the Classic which is powder coated, and Prestige, its stainless steel variant—and are available in five designs to help maximize limited spaces for the various kitchen utensils and implements. Asiaco also manufactures wall-mounted accessories, either powder coated or stainless steel, for that well-organized kitchen.

Proof of the company's commitment to provide world-class and innovative product lines is its recent passing of the rigid ISO 9002 quality certification standard from TUV Service GMBH, one of the most credible certification bodies based in Munich, Germany.

As part of its quality service to the public, Asiaco is offering free technical advice on kitchen and room designs through its customer hotline 744-1558 or 755-1560 and ask for Kris.

DIRECT SOURCE OFFICIAL SLAZENGER LICENSEE

The Dunlop-Slazenger Group recently appointed Direct Source Inc. as official Philippine licensee for Slazenger apparel. Signing the agreement were Ed Lua (left), CEO of Direct Source and Phil Parnell (right), CEO of Dunlop-Slazenger Group. Also shown (standing, from left) were Roland So, sales and marketing manager, and Jeremy Norberg, HR director of DSII. Allan Lovelle is the chief finance director and Cecille Reyes is the GM of DSII.

St. Scholastica's Westgrove accepts applications this May

ST. SCHOLATICA'S College-Westgrove Heights in Silang, Cavite—the latest suburban extension of the noted Catholic school for girls—now accepts applicants for admission in the coming school year 2002.

The school, put up through the joint efforts of Ayala Land Inc. and the Missionary Benedictine Sisters, opened its doors June 2001 to its first batch of students, most of whom came from nearby Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Sis. Edna Quiambao, OSB, school directress, announced that on its second year, the school offers Kinder, Prep, Grade 1 up to Grade 4, first and second year high school, and first and second year college.

The application period for the collegiate, grade school and high school levels extends until this May. Application and testing fee is P400 for all levels.

For more particulars, call (046) 511-0424 or (046) 511-0421.

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25 April 2002

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB NO. 2002-5-28 (01)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals for the use of the DOH Retained Hospitals, with an approved budget of **Eighty-two Million Philippine Pesos only (PhP82,000,000.00)**, chargeable against the **National Center for Health Facility Development funds**.

Only duly accredited DOH suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors of drugs as certified by the DOH Accreditation of Supplier's Committee, with valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) for items to be bid from Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), and with no pending violations of the said product to be bid from BFAD are qualified to participate for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals. Copy of the list of various pharmaceuticals, with specifications and quantities are available at the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. 26, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents and obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service from **May 6 to 24, 2002**, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon presentation of authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate for Drugs and Medicines and its accredited products, valid CPR of specific accredited drugs to be bid, Certification of No Pending Violation of the drugs to be bid and upon payment of **non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos only (PhP2,000.00)**

A pre-bidding conference will be held on **May 14, 2002** at **2:00 p.m.**, National Epidemiology Center Conference Room, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the National Epidemiology Center Conference Room not later than **1:00 p.m.** on **May 28, 2002**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank, or any combination thereof, as may be required by the head of the agency concerned, in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%)

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - April 28 & May 5, 2002)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 840-1440

PNOC The Energy Company

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

A. SUPPLY OF LABOR and MATERIALS for the INSTALLATION OF POWER FACTOR CORRECTION (CAPACITOR BANK) (RE-BID)
Project No.: WO-02-016
Bid Deadline: **May 23, 2002** (RE-BID)

B. RACK SERVERS, DESKTOP COMPUTERS, LASER PRINTERS
Project No.: CD200204/05
Bid Deadline: **May 21, 2002**

C. COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) CYLINDERS
(Operating Pressure: 3672 psi/255 bar - minimum at 15°C)
Project No.: ER200205
Bid Deadline: **May 23, 2002**

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **May 10, 2002**. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate Management Services

(PDI - April 27 & 28, 2002)

INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

White skins

Q. Why are white people called Caucasians?

A. The word "Caucasian" in referring to white people comes from the mountainous Caucasus region of Russia. It was here that anthropologists found skulls of ancient white people, so they gave the name "Caucasian" to the white race. However, this is a misnomer because the early inhabitants of the Caucasus were not typically white.

For the Record. Skin color is determined by a pigment called melanin. Dark-skinned people have more of this pigment than others; pink-skinned people have so little melanin that blood color shows through; albinos, or *anak-araw*, lack melanin. Skin color can serve utilitarian purpose. This is because melanin absorbs ultraviolet light from the sun, which is harful in excess but valuable in moderation. In Africa and other very sunny places, dark skin offers protection from too much ultraviolet light, and therefore has survival value. In Scandinavia and other parts of the world where there is less ultraviolet light, fair skin lets people get the sunlight they need for the formation of vitamin D in the body.

First of All. The first woman TV announcer was the German actress Ursula Patzschke, who was hired by Reichsposts towards the end of 1934 to introduce the experimental programs transmitted daily from Berlin. At first she only announced the programs, but later she recited poetry, or acted monologues she had written herself. She had a naturally informal manner, and would sometimes be accompanied by her dog or a couple of children.

WORD WATCH

Dubbing (dub'bing) : the broadcast term is a contracting of *doubling*.

PDI - April 28, 2002

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Globe Handyphone caps text promo with P3-M grand prize to Iligan mom

A 46-YEAR-OLD mother of six from Iligan City found out that texting using her Globe Handyphone not only proved to be an effective way to communicate to her loved ones and friends, it also became her ticket to winning a whopping P3 million. The lucky winner texted her way to the grand prize in Globe Handyphone's TXTciting promo, the biggest and most exciting text-based contest in the Philippines to date.

"It was a dream come true," the lucky mother exclaimed when she, together with her husband, flew to Manila recently to claim the prize. "I really wanted to win," Perla Toylo, the TXTciting grand winner excitedly said. She began sending entries at the TXTciting promo's start in January, hoping that luck would come her way—and had sent so many entries that she lost count of how many she entered within the promo's duration.

There is definitely a reward waiting for those who do not give up, as this winner would attest. Even though she had texted in numerous entries during the hourly TXTciting contests, she did not win anything from those draws. But it was one of her non-winning entries which struck it big during the contest's final hour, where all non-winning correct entries were counted in the grand draw.

The check for P3 million was presented by Globe Telecom marketing manager Kristelle Dizon and corporate communications supervisor Dimpy Jazmines in awarding ceremonies held at Shangri-La Manila. The happy couple was accompanied by one of their Manila-based daughters and son-in-law in claiming their prize.

Coincidentally, the couple's trip to Manila to claim their TXTciting winnings was the mother's first time to see the city. Because of the TXTciting promo, she says even that dream has now been fulfilled.

Dazed from what she considers her biggest blessing yet, the TXTciting grand winner said that the prize would tremendously help them in their expenses, a major part of it they would put to good use for their children's future.

The couple has six children ranging in age from 9 to 28 years old. The P3 million would already assure the education for three of their children still in school—two in college and one in elementary. With their winnings, they are also planning to buy a family van and deposit the rest in the bank. As for immediate plans, they would just be buying Globe Handyphones for each of their children.

Like Perla, hundreds of thousands joined the TXTciting promo, making it the most successful text-based contest of Globe to date. It also was the texting promo with the biggest total prize ever given away. Upon its culmination on March 4, the promo had already given out P13 million in cash and cool Nokia cell phones to lucky Globe Handyphone subscribers who sent their entries nationwide.

In the TXTciting promo, all Globe subscribers had to do was unscramble the TXTciting word of the day and send the correct answer with their name and address. Everyday during the promo period, seven hourly draws were held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lucky texters were able to win cash prizes of P10,000, P20,000, P50,000 and P100,000, or Nokia 6210, 8250, 8310, 8850 and 9210 handsets.

METROBANK HONORED BY IGLF ANEW

Metrobank was recently awarded a special recognition as the 'Most Outstanding Participating Financial Institution for 2001' by the Development Bank of the Philippines for its consistent sterling performance in lending to small and medium-scale enterprises under the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund (IGLF) program, commercial bank category. Shown is DBP president Remedios Macalincag congratulating Metrobank vice chair Placido Mapa, Jr., as BSP governor Rafael Buenaventura, Finance Secretary Jose Camacho and DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas look on during the affair at the DBP head office in Makati City. Metrobank has been a consistent 'Outstanding Financial Participating Institution' awardee under the DBP Wholesale Lending Program for the past 12 years.

HEPA-B IMMUNIZATION PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Rotary Club of Makati recently launched its World Community Service Hepa-B Immunization program. The project aims to provide Hepa-B vaccines once a month for three months to 1,690 school children in and around Metro Manila. This Hepa-B medical mission is made possible with the help of other Rotary International District 3830 clubs, Rotary Japan District 2700 and Streamline Pharmaceuticals. Shown are RCM president Jonny Carlos (center left) and district governor Ernie Salas (center right) looking on as medical practitioners administer Hepa-B shots to children at the Fourth Estate Elementary School in Parañaque City. This particular event was hosted by RC Palanyag and RC Parañaque West.

All set for Spidey action at Ayala malls

BASED on the hugely popular Marvel comic book series, "Spider-man" will have its first live episode at the Ayala Malls on the first bloom of May. The Ayala Malls once again brings us to a closer look on international shows and live performance of comic strips such as its latest tie-up with the much-awaited adventure of Spider-man.

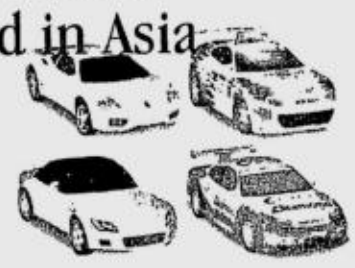
While the "Spider-man" movie sticks to the silver screen, this favorite wall-crawler superhero once again subdues the underworld and fights for humanity with his wrist-mounted web shooters and long-chain web-fluid polymer knits.

Think superhero and witness the superhuman strength of Spider-man with live shows this May 1, 3 and 4 (2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.) at the Activity Center of Glorietta, Ayala Center, and May 5, 6 and 7 (11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.) at the Alabang Town Center cinemas. For Ayala Center Cebu, "Spider-man Live!" will be shown at the Activity Center on May 10 and 11 (3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.) and May 12 (11:30 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.).

Plus, get a chance to meet and greet Spider-man at the Glorietta and Alabang Town cinemas and at the Activity Center of the Ayala Center in Cebu after the live shows. You can bring your cameras for a souvenir photo with your favorite spidey ace.

Product FILES

Auldey race-tins: the new fad in Asia



THERE'S a new toy that's becoming a favorite in many Asian countries today. But it's no ordinary toy because it has captured the hearts of kids and adults, as well.

They are the Auldey race-tins—palm sized racing cars sold in sleek, carry-anywhere canisters.

A combination of the remote-controlled cars of the old generation and the Japanese mini-cars of the new millennium, these cars are powered by small batteries and radio frequencies. The cars can be operated through the canister cap, which serves as its remote control. But what sets it apart from all other toy cars in the market today is that race tins run on any flat surface, no need for race tracks.

More interesting to note is the fact that they are just like real cars; you can do anything from changing tires, to motors, and wheels.

Race tins are gaining popularity in many Asian countries. In Thailand, race tins are such exciting events that big crowds gather at open grounds during weekends to watch these races. Most of the spectators enjoy watching the cars zoom past finish lines at high speeds, or tumble as one car hits another—and they still keep running.

Many enthusiasts have even set up websites providing information such as racing times, latest car models, and car performance enhancement tips.

DWC LEGASPI HOMECOMING

The Divine Word College of Legaspi City, formerly known as Liceo de Albay, will be having its general alumni homecoming on May 4 at its high school grounds with the theme 'Coming Home, Helping People'. Shown is DWHS Silver Jubilarians and host class '77 organizing committee members (from left) Jose Sala, Marivic M. Jopia, Rey Binamira, Mayflor A. Deang, Apo Gonzales, Dette M. Despabiladeras, Dehna R. Sevilla, Steve los Banos and TG Serrano meeting to discuss the highlights of the planned activities from May to December which, aside from fellowship programs, will include free vocational training and educational courses, medical missions, art and cultural contests and scholarship programs. Call 0919-5722201, 0916-3740489, 0917-5307916 and 0919-2752818.

CFBC LEADS TAX SEMINAR

The Chinese Filipino Business Club has come to the rescue of countless entrepreneurs and average citizens who find it difficult to understand taxation. The CFBC has produced a booklet that details the latest revenue regulations. The CFBC likewise organized a successful Tax Consciousness Seminar attended by 200 taxpayers, each of whom got a copy of the booklet. Rene Bañez (fourth from left), Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, graced the seminar and received a copy of the booklet from the officers of CFBC led by president Aw Peng Lam (third from right). Also shown (from left) are CFBC vice presidents Rufino H. Koipo and George S. Lee, executive vice president lawyer Daniel Laogan, and vice presidents Sly Yap Chua and Jose Qua. The CFBC is comprised of business leaders from various sectors. Since its inception in 1998, it has contributed to nation-building through activities such as tax information drives, sending delegations to trade missions abroad, and the development of small and medium enterprises.

Star Model Quest 2002

STAR MODEL Quest 2002 is continuing its weekly eliminations at the Starmall Edsa in Mandaluyong City. Held in cooperation with Sunrise Entertainment, the other weekly finals will be held at April 28 and on May 5. 14 finalists will vie for the title on May 26 at the second level of Starmall in Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. The show is also presented in cooperation with Tretorn shoes. Winners of the previous weekly finals were Victor Anthony F. Maceda, Paola Tesoro, Jay Grant, and Ma. Consolacion Ferrer. The search is still open for male and female contestants 14 to 21 years old. Interested parties can call Starmall at 718-1886 or Sunrise Entertainment Co. at 718-1885, or visit the Sunrise Entertainment office at Unit 21 of the Starmall Apartelle, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Registration is free.

BITS Clips

Air Philippines improves on-time performance

AIR PHILIPPINES consistently registers improvement in its on-time reliability both in departures and arrivals. For February, it registered 95 percent. For the first half of March, the average performance reliability was a high 97 percent, achieving an almost perfect 99.9 percent during the first week. The figures represent the average percentage nationwide. The marked improvement is the result of the continuing drive of the company to provide the riding public with the best possible service. The campaign is supported by the integration into its fleet of two B737-300 aircraft, which are currently being utilized in the main trunk of is domestic network. The same aircraft is being utilized in the airlines' regional run.

Jaycees launch 'Beyond Prison Walls'

ON APRIL 16, the Philippine Jaycees launched the "Beyond Prison Walls" project, a landmark undertaking that hopes to uplift the lives of thousands of poor inmates currently incarcerated in more than 300 jails all over the country. Inspired and proposed by the founding national president of the Philippine Jaycees Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, the project aims to provide a host of services such as free legal aid, donation of basic necessities, and cleanliness campaigns to prisoners living in deplorable jail conditions. With the Manila Jaycees as lead chapter, and co-hosted by the Manileña and Navotas Pescadores Jaycees, this new national project jumpstarted with modest rites at the Navotas Municipal Jail. In attendance were Del Rosario, Navotas vice mayor Lutgardo V. Cruz, DILG Undersecretary Wencelito T. Andanar, Caritas Manila managing director Fr. Anton Cecilio T. Pascual and Philippine Jaycees national president Mabel P. Villarica-Mamba.

French diagnostics firm invests in RP

BIOMERIEUX SA, one of the world leaders in the field of diagnostics, and Organon Teknika, a local corporation, have announced a merger to form Biomerieux SA (Philippine representative office). Headed by country manager Jose Santiago A. dela Cruz, the merger aims to create a new force in the field of diagnostics that will supply local health care with world-class equipment. Starting May 1, Biomerieux SA will hold its local office at the 11th floor of the Pearlbank Center, 146 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City with telephone numbers 810-2131, 817-7741, 817-7742 and fax number 812-0896. It is also the exclusive distributor of TNC Everlight Philippines Inc. with telephone numbers 812-8738 to 40.

Hog farmers convention at WTC

THE NATIONAL Fedration of Hog Farmers Inc. is holding its 11th NFHFI National Convention at the World Trade Center from May 16 to 18. To address the threats and opportunities that come with global competition, this year's chosen theme is "Meeting the Challenges of Trade Liberalization." The primary objective of the convention is to inspire the Filipino hog farmers to get ready for global trade, to raise their operations to international standards, and to bring issues concerning the hog farming industry to the attention of the national government. The convention is headed by NFHFI chair Gabriel H. Uy, convention chair Renato R. Eleria, and members Dan Javellana, Charles Ong, Emiliana Robles and Lily Ang. Interested delegates and exhibitors to the convention may get in touch with the NFHFI secretariat at 924-8884, 924-2317, or with Premier Events Plus Group at 436-4711 to 12, 929-7993/63, or e-mail info@PEPGroup.com.

PBMIT High School '79 reunion

THE HIGH school graduating class '79 of Pablo Borbon Memorial Institute of Technology (now Batangas State University) will be holding its class reunion in Batangas City. All batch alumni are requested to attend this momentous affair, which will be held at Edgar Saniel's residence at Nuestra Señora de Guia Subdivision, Poblacion 2, Bauan, Batangas from 2 p.m. onwards on May 18. For details, call Jigger Muñoz at (043)723-2426, (043)402-1527, or at 0919-2597122 if you're in Batangas City, or call Enrico Salas at 811-0135 or 811-1111 local 555, or at 0917-8923429 if you're in Metro Manila.

NESHS 35th year reunion

THE NESHS (Nueva Ecija South High School) class of 1967 will hold a grand reunion in 2002. To register, call Rolando Medina at 911-2252 or 0917-3776067 or Denang Cabrera at 045-8600797 or 0920-2223223.

Grand Launch on April 18

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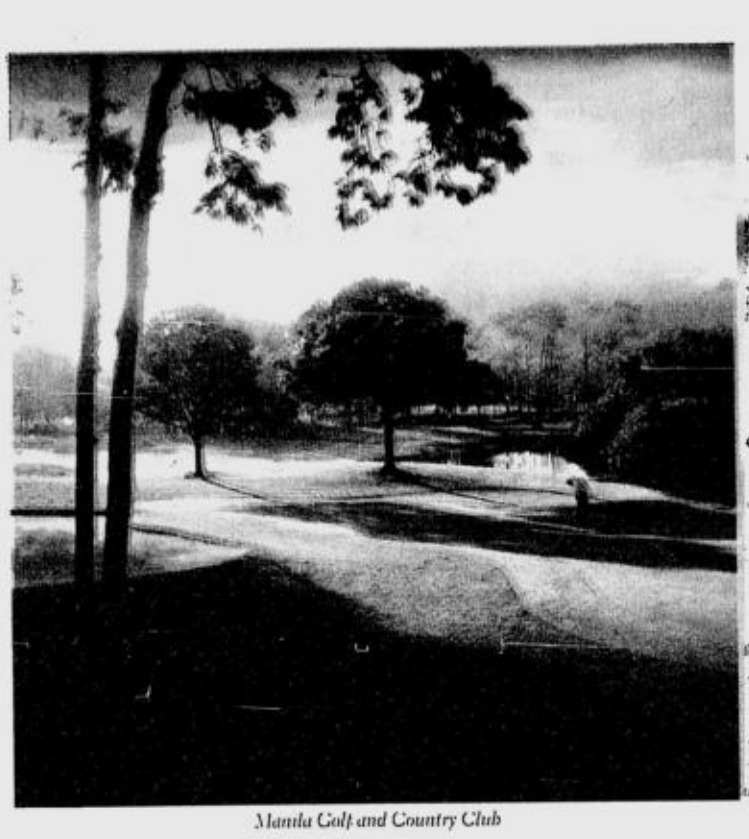
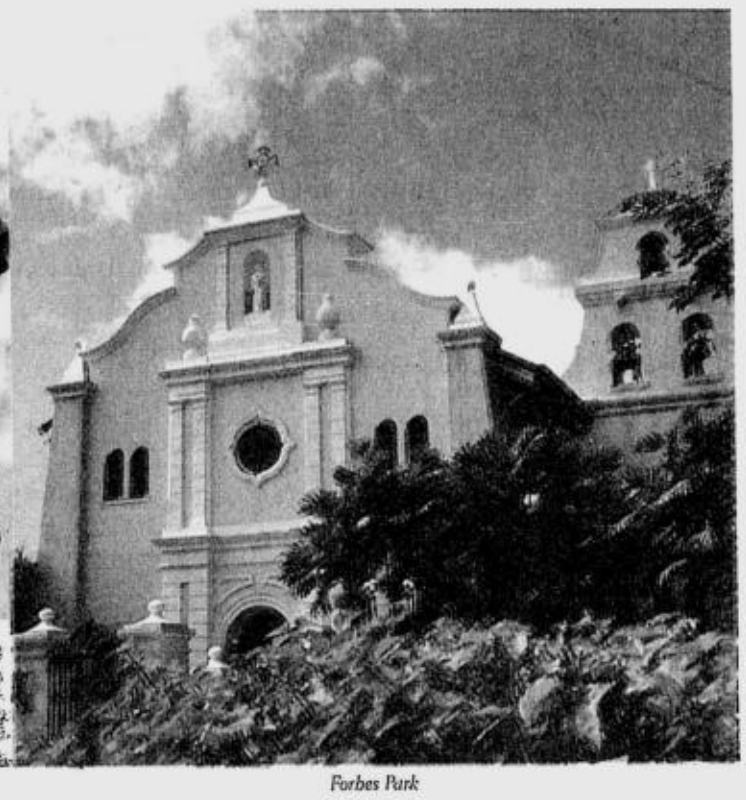


Manila Golf and Country Club

Manila Polo Club



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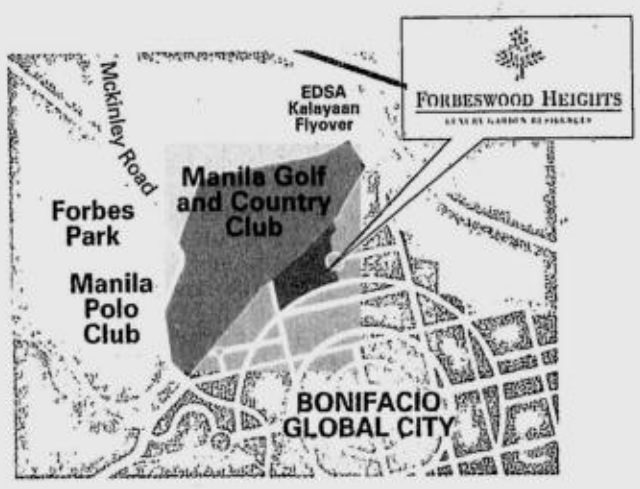

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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Parents set up school their kids need

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

BUSINESSMAN Gilbert Leonor was no different from other parents with children born with special needs. He was content to leave the education of Jamie Rose, now 15, his mildly retarded daughter, to highly trained teachers he thought knew best. Then the school's system began to unravel, leaving him no choice but to take matters into his own hands.

"The school for special kids my daughter used to attend lost its focus," he says. "It began introducing other sources of revenue, such as caregiver services to make more money. Its goal of teaching students practical tasks to help them navigate through daily life was compromised."

Journalist Shirley Matias Pizarro had a different, albeit pressing, dilemma involving autistic son Gabe. Just over a year ago, Gabe's teacher assured Pizarro that he was ready to go to a "big" school. Deep in her heart, however, Pizarro knew that Gabe, 8, needed more time in a sheltered environment before making that big move.

"I wanted a school that would give Gabe a curriculum for regular kids, but could also present an environment that understands his behavior," says Pizarro. Problem was she couldn't find such a school near their home.

Solving their own problems

Seeking to address their specific concerns, Leonor, Pizarro and several partners established the Maryridge School and Institute for Child Development Studies (tel. 829-1871). The school occupies a one-story structure in a sprawling compound on F. Cruz Street, BF Homes, Parañaque. For Leonor, Pizarro and partners, running the school has become more than just a solution to their problems but also an advocacy of sorts.

"Many of us are successful entrepreneurs," says Leonor, who met most of his partners while pursuing an MBA at the Asian Institute of Management. "We want to give something back to society, and what better way to do this than to come up with a school that could also benefit our kids."

Now going on its second year of operations, the school caters primarily to children with reading, writing and mathematical disabili-

PARENTS/ p.C2

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Parents set up school their kids need

From page C1

ties. These include kids with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, opposition defiant disorder, mild retardation, seizure disorders and functional autism.

Twenty-three students of varying ages and needs were enrolled last school year. Two teachers from a staff of six supervised each class composed of not more than six students. In short, each teacher attended to no more than three students.

"Like a regular school," says Joji Reynes, Maryridge's academic supervisor, "we have divided the students into kinder, elementary and high school. Aside from the usual load of academic subjects, we also give emphasis to everyday skills."

Seemingly mundane chores such as reading and understanding signs, taking care of themselves, counting their change, budgeting, managing a home and even cooking are taught, especially to adolescents belonging to pre-vocational or high school classes.

Functional knowledge

"Our facilities may seem modest at present, but they'll evolve overtime," Leonor says. "Our main thrust is to teach these kids to become functional and, eventually, gainfully employed. To achieve this, we have to constantly tailor-fit the school's facilities and programs to their individual needs."

The partners also offer something other schools probably don't: they're willing to use their goodwill and business connections to help their students land decent jobs later.

Children belonging to each grade or year will be using almost the same textbooks used by their counterparts in mainstream schools. The differences lie in the specialized worksheets, system and pace of teaching, which is again highly individualized. "Intervention" has become an operative word for children having difficulties with certain subjects.

"We want them to benefit as much as possible from a regular education," says Reynes. "The earlier the intervention, the better. But as long as the child is willing to learn, there will always be room for progress even if his mind's so-called absorption level has plateaued. A creative teacher can help channel what he has learned so he can use them in other ways."

TWO of the business partners, Gilbert Leonor and Ana Fernandez (first and third from left), with Joji Reynes and two of Maryridge's students

Reynes, who finished special education at the University of the Philippines before taking her MA in psychology at the Ateneo, manages a staff composed of graduates in psychology, education, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Each teacher is required to undergo regularly in-house training and seminars to be conducted by experts from outside the school. Two more teachers will be joining them come June. Enrollment is now going on for grades 1, 2 and 3 and pre-vocational classes for first and second year students.

Regular kids accepted

The school is also open even to children without special needs, if their parents are open-minded enough to let them enroll at Maryridge. In fact, one of the school's objectives is to allow regular kids to know children with disabilities and be enriched by the experience.

"There's still this lingering stigma attached to special children," Leonor sighs, never mind if Reynes and her staff have devised a different, more challenging scheme for regular kids. Even abroad, including the United States, where laws require schools to promote integration, educators are finding it hard to convince parents to allow their children to interact with youngsters with special needs.

The interaction between regular and special children actually benefits both sets of kids. Among other things, kids with disabilities get to prepare to face a brave, new world outside the home and classroom.

From a business standpoint, an increase in enrolment would eventually bring down the cost of operations, thus making quality education more affordable to all. Leonor and company know that they face an uphill battle that will test their resolve and entrepreneurial skills.

"But this isn't just a school," he declares. "It's a long-term commitment to develop kids and bring out their full potential as human beings."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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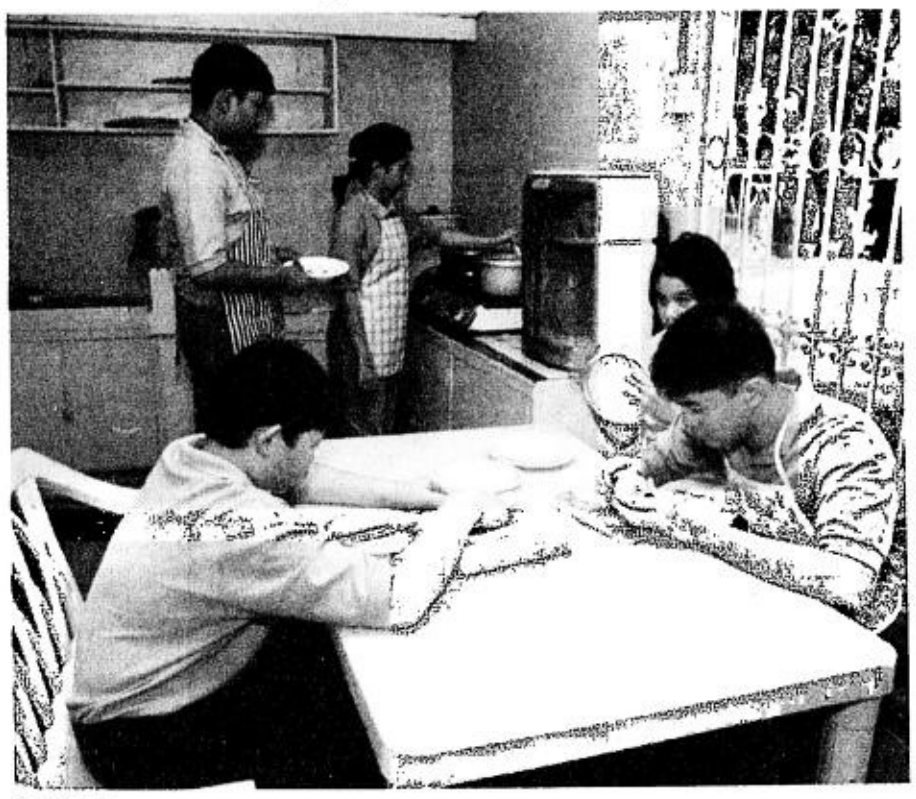
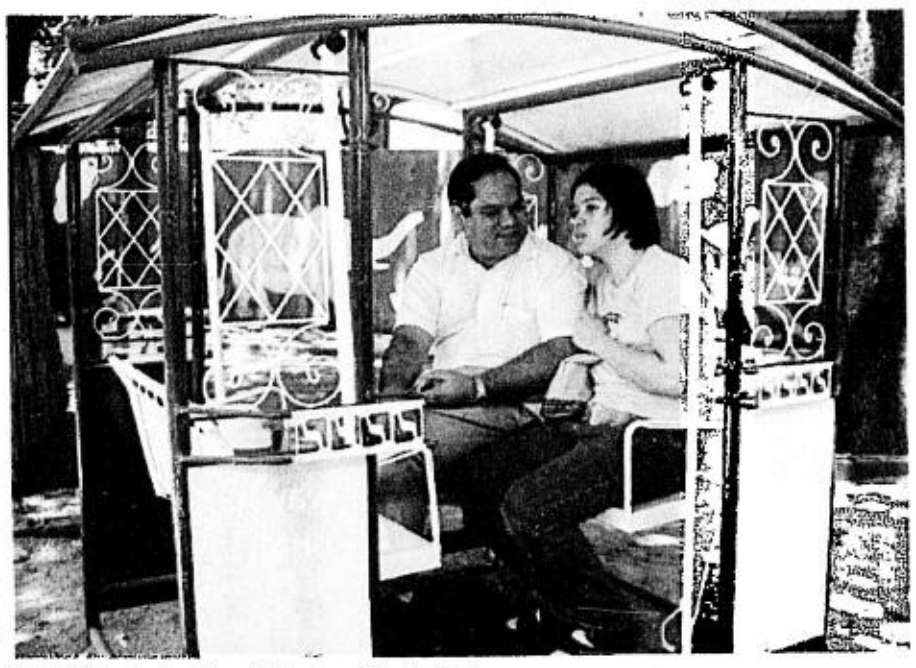


CHOW time



FATHER and daughter Gilbert and Jamie Rose

Pfizer mEDex®
MEDICAL EXPERT ON ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION
E.D.torial

What is mEDex?

Pfizer, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines and the manufacturer of high quality drugs, introduces mEDex - **Medical Experts for Erectile Dysfunction**. Pfizer mEDex is a program that will involve a group of doctors and lay people who are specialists in the fields of Medicine and Family Life, dedicated and committed to make Filipino males understand **Erectile Dysfunction** or E.D. and present them with the best solution available.

Pfizer mEDex **E.D.torials** will be a weekly Sunday column that will feature E.D. as the main subject. Various topics pertaining to E.D. will be discussed every week, ranging from aging gracefully to diseases like diabetes and hypertension to marriage and keeping the passion alive.

What is Erectile Dysfunction?

Erectile Dysfuncton or E.D. is defined as a male's inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual performance. More commonly known as impotence, studies have shown that E.D. is estimated to affect millions of men in the Philippines. Though its prevalence increases with age, E.D. is **not a necessary consequence of aging**. It can also be caused by or be the side effect of other known diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular problems. Depression, fatigue and stress can also contribute to having E.D. Thus, however we look at it - the social impact of E.D. can be very significant. It does not only affect one's health but also the overall quality of a person's life.

However, E.D. is underdiagnosed due to the reluctance of most patients to discuss sexual functions. This may be a function of Filipino culture. But it is important to know that E.D. is treatable and reversible. A patient who suspects that he is suffering from E.D. just needs to see a doctor to know if he is indeed suffering from E.D. This way, he will be able to understand his problem and know the available solution for it.

It is the goal of Pfizer mEDex **E.D.torials** to make Filipino males who suspect that they are suffering from E.D. understand the problem more, be encouraged to consult a doctor and see the light at the end of this short tunnel.

Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (**mEDex@Pfizer.com.ph**)

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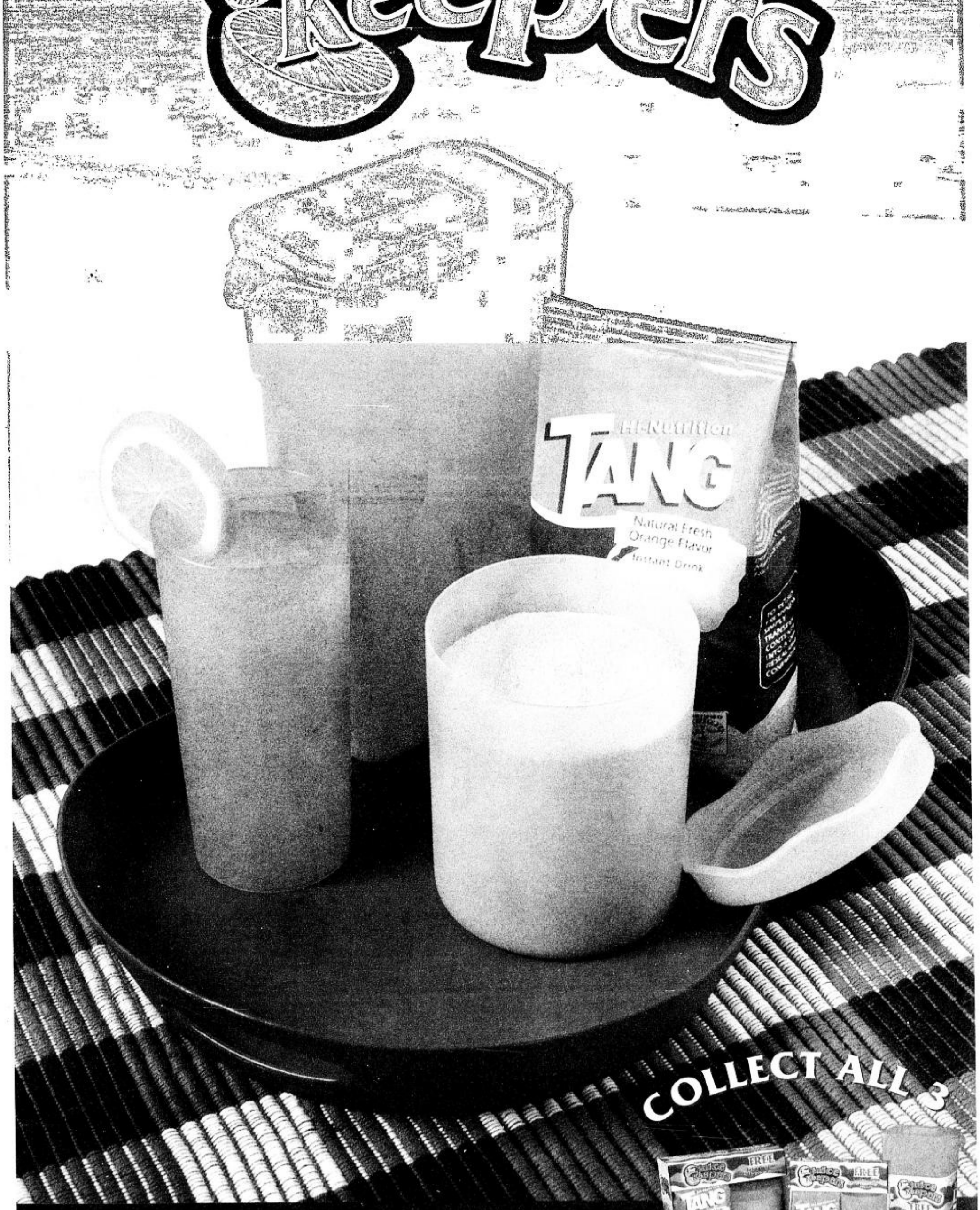

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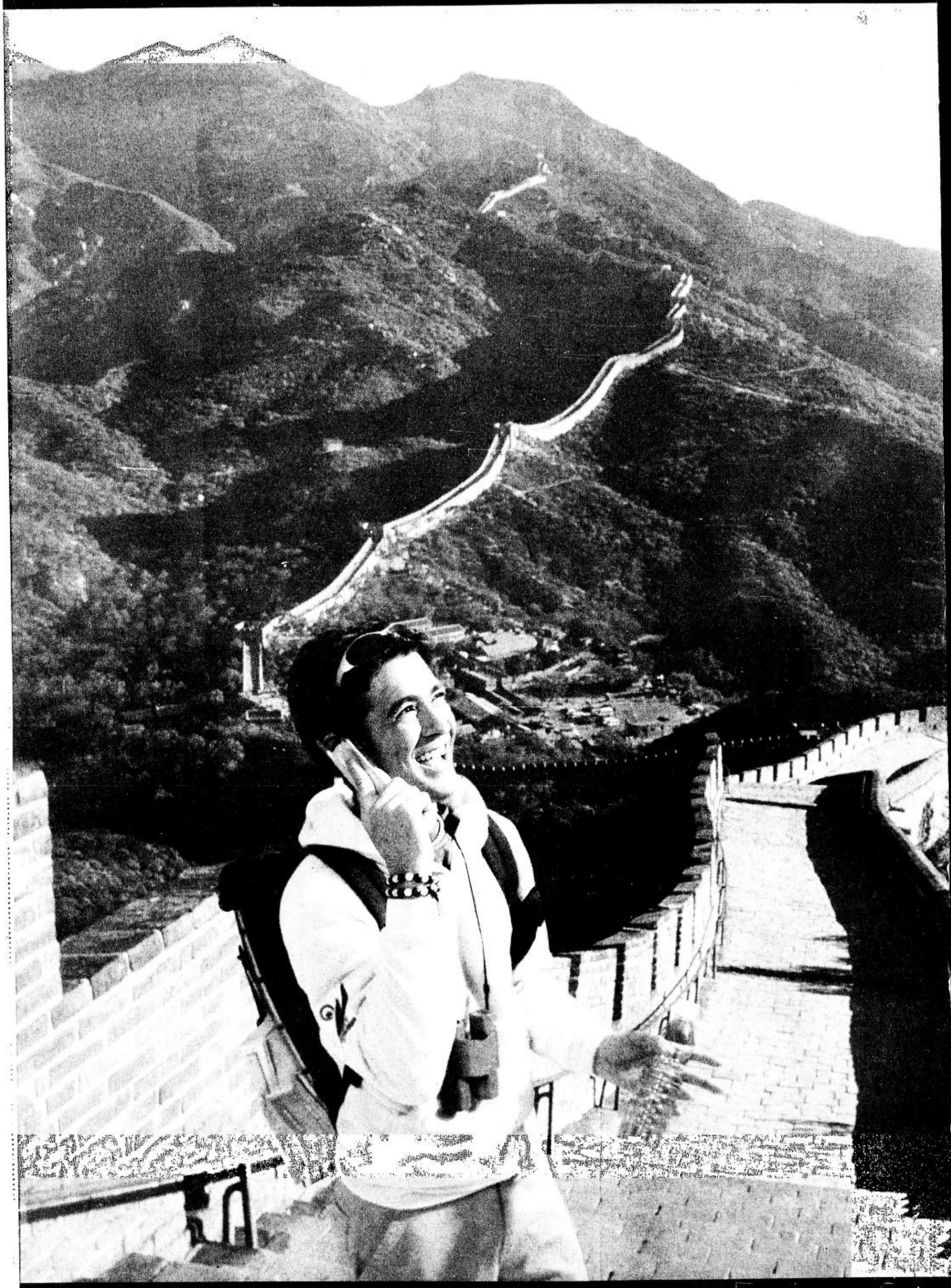

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THE BRIDGE School staff: (from left) Diane Quisumbing, Sheila Sarmiento, Tere del Rosario (administrator), Denise Tabuena and Michelle Tabuena

'Preschool is the best time to help a child to be confident and develop self-esteem'

BOOKS of different sizes and topics are within the children's reach at the library.

School picks up where parents leave off

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

RESPONSIBLE and well-behaved are adjectives that rarely apply to toddlers and young children. But Teresa Tabuena del Rosario, administrator of The Bridge School, and the school's faculty readily use those descriptions when referring to their wards.

Del Rosario and the teachers of this early childhood learning center employ an interesting style and strategies to address a variety of challenges facing parents of young children. The methods will be useful not just to parents but other educators as well who have to interact with very young children.

A private school for kids aged 2½ to 5½ years, The Bridge School provides a comprehensive curriculum based on the standards of Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We call it 'emergent curriculum.' Through this approach, we help the kids do what is expected of them but in a meaningful way. We teach them things and reinforce their skills but in a manner that the children will think is fun," says Del Rosario.

At The Bridge School, home-school relationships are important. The staff believes that parents are primary influences in their children's lives, thus they are essential partners in the education of kids. "This is why we interview parents upon enrolment to know more about their families and their expectations from the school and how we can help them in raising their kids," says teacher Michelle Tabuena.

As Del Rosario, teachers Michelle Tabuena, Denise Tabuena, Sheila Sarmiento, Diane Quisumbing, Katrina del Rosario and caregiver Tess Liboon deal with fussy eaters, morning hassles and temper tantrums everyday, they also prepare kids for healthy teenage years.

At this stage, they say, children are like sponges, ready to absorb anything. "So during their stay here, we help them build a good foundation, a love for school and learning without burning them out," says Tabuena.

Learning environment

Located at 29 Cairo St., BF Northwest, Parañaque City, the 1,200-sq-m school has rooms with oversized and regular-sized books for kids, audio kits, games, educational toys and art materials all within a little person's reach and child-safe and age-appropriate.

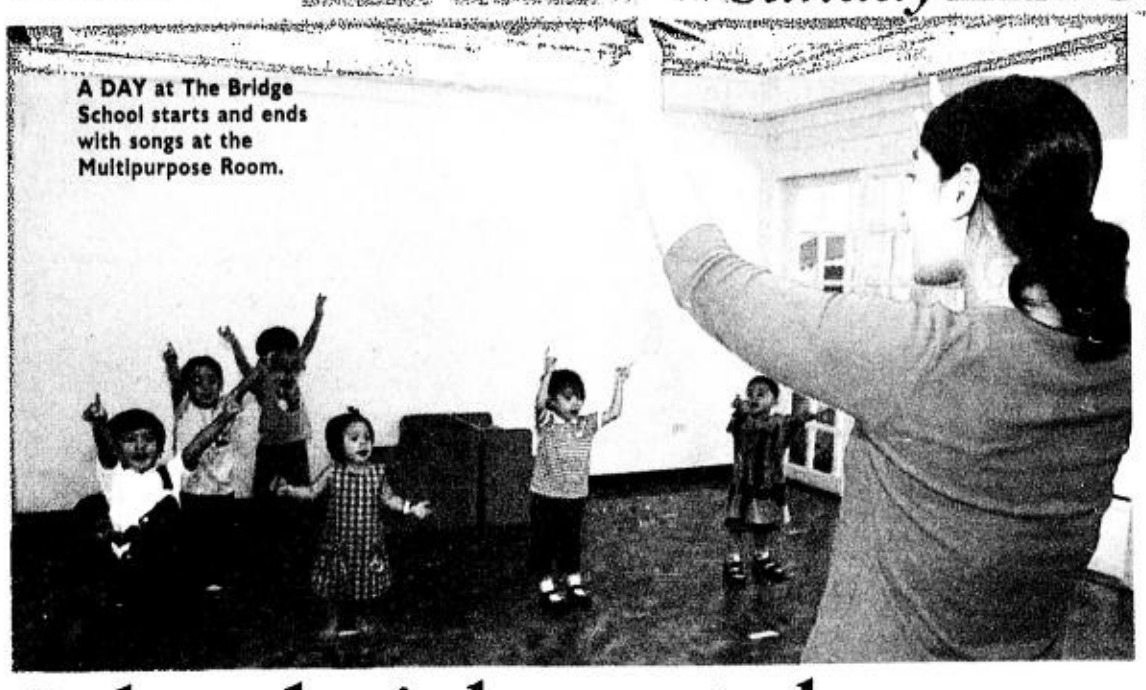
Learning centers are arranged in a manner that helps children interact with their environment, either individually or in small groups. There are block areas and Math, Science, writing, reading, listening and computer centers.

There is also a cooking area and a dramatic play area with child-size furniture where children can practice role-playing and develop language and social skills.

But not all learning is confined indoors. The

SCHOOL/ p.C7

AT THE DRAMATIC Play Area, children are taught social skills.



A DAY at The Bridge School starts and ends with songs at the Multipurpose Room.

MICHELLE Tabuena teaches children how to be creative at the Art Center.

School picks up where parents leave off

From page C6

school has over 300 sq m of grassy outdoor play area, where science and art activities are often enjoyed. A multipurpose room is the venue for various school events like graduation.

"They can explore things within the school and run around the rooms. With this setup, they learn independence," Tabuena says.

Each day at The Bridge School starts and ends with a prayer and songs. Children learn values, respect for authority and for each other, a sense of responsibility and the consequences of their actions. "What we teach them about the evolution of the caterpillar will be forgotten but the wonder of and awe for living things are what we focus on."

Inspired by her mother, Conchita Razon, who used to manage a preschool in their San Juan residence, Del Rosario worked in preschools and elementary schools in the United States, Korea and Japan. It was through her travels with her family that she learned "preschool is the best time to help a child to be confident and develop self-esteem. After graduation, we all know the same things but character, attitude, self-image and self-concept will make us different from one another. So let children discover what they're all about. Celebrate the child in the child."

According to Tabuena, the 14 kids who graduated from The Bridge School last March were egocentric and self-centered during the first few months in school. But as the school year drew to a close, they have learned to share and take turns in playing with toys, "to compromise and negotiate."

The Bridge School will hold a summer camp for children 2-6 years old 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, May 6-17. Call 826-5777, 820-7188 or (0917) 528-2611.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

AT THE WRITING Center, kids are provided with materials to help them learn how to write.

Vigan festival promotes the city's cultural heritage

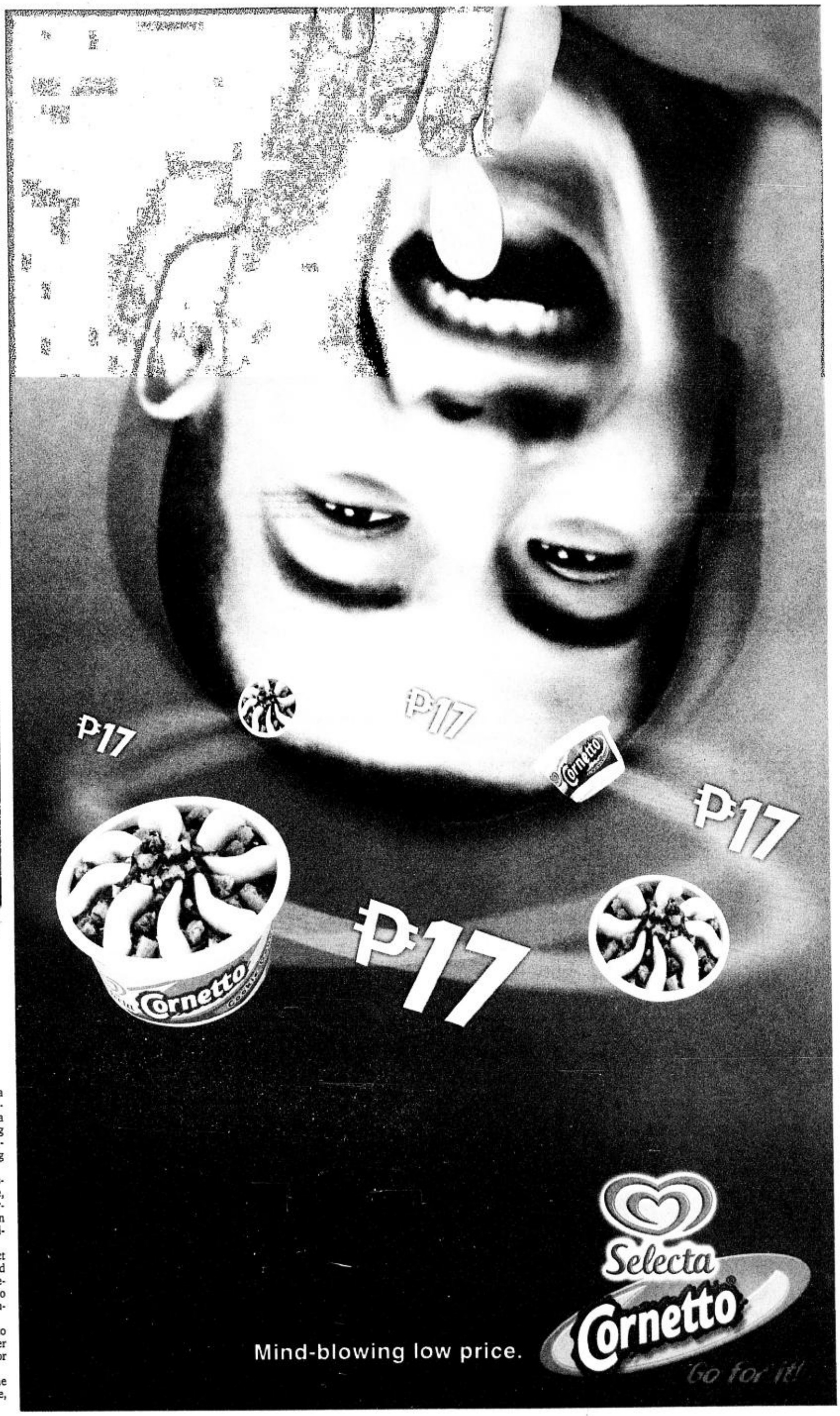
THE KATIPUNAN ng mga Asosasyon para sa Ikauunlad ng Vigan at Kapaligiran Foundation or KaiVigan is holding its Sama-Sama KaiVigan Discovery Trip on May 3-5 during the Viva Vigan Festival, which aims to increase cultural heritage awareness by giving participants an interactive feel of Ilocos.

Participants will get to explore centuries-old structures, savor freshly made cane wine, create earthenware using a thousand-year-old method, dine in a grand hall, and frolic in a pristine cove. You will also get to visit landmarks normally closed to the public.

KaiVigan was organized in 1994 to protect and promote Vigan's priceless heritage, and has helped in promoting tourist-oriented livelihood opportunities for its residents. It also actively helped in qualifying Vigan for inclusion in the Unesco World Heritage List.

Proceeds of Sama-Sama KaiVigan will go to KaiVigan's ongoing project to establish a center for tourist information and a training center for traditional industries such as *abel* weaving.

Call 912-5618/7004 or visit its office at the Earthlite Center, 4/F COD Department Store, Cubao, QC.



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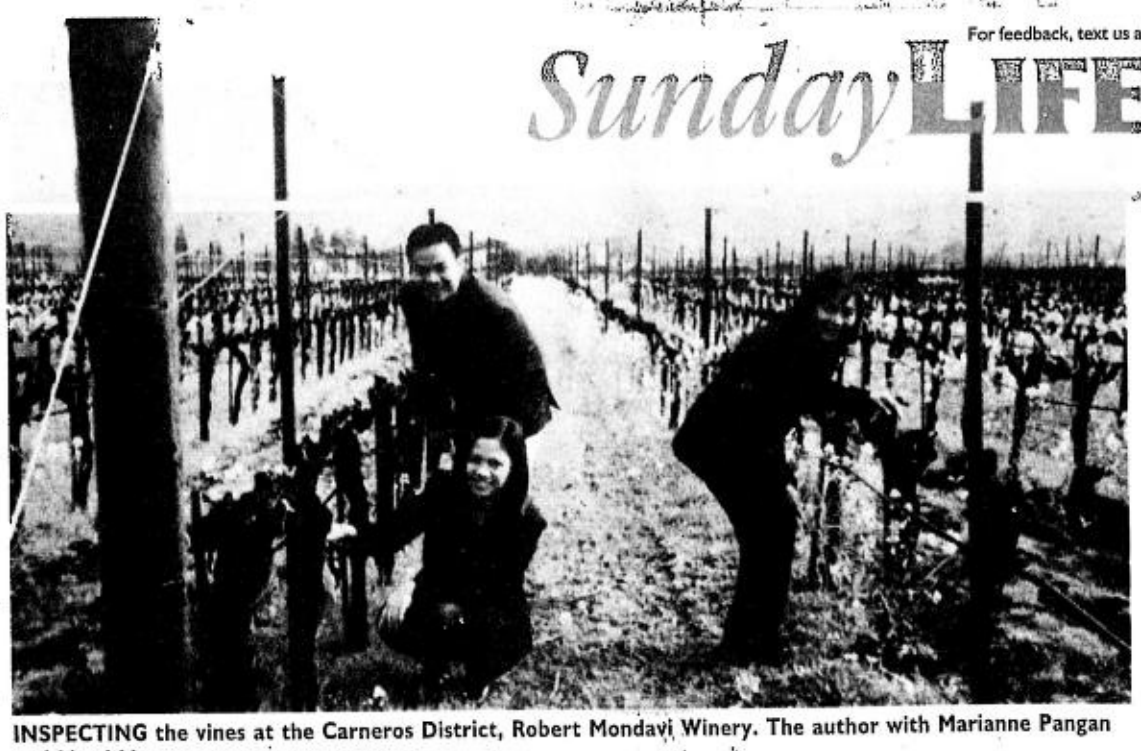
Sunday LIFESTYLE



INSPECTING the vines at the Carneros District, Robert Mondavi Winery. The author with Marianne Pangan and Lloyd Montero

INSIDE the tasting room, Arrowood Winery, Sonoma Country. From left, Angela del Rosario, Marianne Pangan, Lloyd Montero (AWSC), Glenda Barretto of Via Mare and Myrna Segismundo of TV Chefs

In the heart of California wine country

By Tita M. Trillo
Contributor

WHEN I landed in San Francisco, the wintry afternoon's nippy air perked up my whole being after spending a long weekend in the dry desert air of Phoenix, Arizona.

My friend, Angela Villongco-Zerman, and I drove from the airport straight to Napa Valley. The vineyard looked so desolate and quiet. All the vines were actually hibernating until the first buds appear in the early spring.

We were all billeted at the Embassy Suites Hotel, a five-star all suites hotel with the ambience of a country inn. Glenda Barretto of Via Mare, Myrna Segismundo of TV Chefs and Marianne Pangan of AWSC joined me in this total immersion in food, wine and art.

The Robert Mondavi Winery hosted our accommodations, meals, wine tours and in-depth wine training.

Day 1, Copia, the American center for wine, food and the arts

A chauffeur-driven stretch limousine took us to this modern museum called Copia in the heart of the California Wine country. Copia was founded by Robert Mondavi, who donated $70 million for this vision to integrate the arts with the pleasures of food and wine. Such is achieved through unique exhibitions and participation of the leading vintners, chefs and artists to experience and celebrate synergy and cultural expression through a variety of programs. Being a founding member myself, I felt good about this grand venture of Mondavi.

The amazing 80,000-sq-ft building gave us a dramatic overview of the Napa River from its glass atrium lobby. We also explored the galleries featuring modern arts and leading photographers like Henri Cartier-Bresson. We strolled through Copia's organic outdoor gardens devoted to vegetables, fruits and herbs. We went to see the amphitheater famous for outdoor concerts, especially during the summer months.

THE AUTHOR with Robert and Margrit Mondavi

Julia Child's kitchen

After the fun-filled educational tour, we ate our lunch at Julia's Kitchen, a bistro style restaurant within the complex. We were treated to this sumptuous lunch with the chefs having so much fun preparing and cooking for almost 100 people eager to try the most-talked-about creations of Julia Child, America's guru of fine cuisine.

The risotto was our favorite, with its unique taste of fresh chanterelles and other country mushrooms, topped with an emulsion and slivers of Parmesan cheese. The Grilled Niman Ranch New York Steak with portabello mushrooms melted in the mouth as we enjoyed our Robert Mondavi La Famiglia-Sangiovese, a wine that exudes light berry fruits with a mild tannin.

The first night was also great—Robert Mondavi arranged for a dinner at Bistro Don Giovanni, the best Italian Restaurant in Napa Valley for the year 2002. We started with the Antipasti alla Toscana, an assortment of Tuscan salami, French prosciuto, provolone, olives served with grilled garlic bread. Their Carpaccio was also excellent, but I indulged myself on the grilled duck breast with salt-roasted baby potatoes, Haricot Verts in a special brandy peppercorn sauce. We were also surprised with the Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Pinot Noir, a wine with lots of finesse and great aroma. According to Glenda and Myrna, to die for was the butter milk mashed potatoes and the grilled Italian sausage with roasted pepper, spinach and creamy soft Polenta. The first Napa encounter was truly unbelievable and we looked forward to the second day.

Day 2, Sonoma Valley

We were all excited to drive to Glen Ellen and Sonoma County and experience a tasting tour at the Arrowood Vineyards and Winery. Their winery was a dream shared by Richard Arrowood, one of California's most renowned winemakers and his

IN THE HEART/ p.D2

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JULIA Child's Kitchen is open and has a modern bar where chefs intermingle with guests.

THE ROBERT Mondavi Showroom features wines and accessories, books and other novelties for sale.

In the heart of California wine country

From page D1

wife.

In 1986, the Arrowoods began to search for the perfect winery and found this beautiful 15-acre property in the historical valley of the Moon of Sonoma County. It was fashioned after a New England farmhouse and was completed in 1987.

Wine tasting was at 10 a.m. From the first wine, a 1999 Arrowood Chardonnay (Sonoma County) through the last, a 1998 Arrowood Cabernet Sauvignon, the experience warmed our hearts as the morning fog enveloped the terrace and we enjoyed the most breathtaking view of the Sonoma Valley. After the wine tasting, we proceeded to the Square in Sonoma to shop for local artisans' arts. Then we had lunch at The Girl and the Fig, which featured the bounty of local produce, herbs, game, poultry, meat and seafood so flavorful and reminiscent of country cooking with a French passion. I still remember my luscious duck confit served on a bed of lentils. The different greens, radishes, haricot verts, olives and mustard vinaigrette was their house salad, and it was divine.

The cheese and the charcuterie featured local artisan's goat cheese and delicatessen. The platter that had the chef's choice of pate, aged sausages and condiments was downed with Arrowood's Cabernet Sauvignon.

MYRNA Segismundo (TV Chefs), Marianne Pangan (general manager, Duty Free Winestop), Angela del Rosario and the author

A tour of Napa and Sonoma valleys becomes an excuse for total immersion in fine dining and endless tasting of the reds and the whites

Julie Higgins original pastels dominated the walls and were all on sale. For me, this French bistro is Sonoma's best secret.

For dinner at the Mustards we tried their famous onion rings, the deep-fried calamari mixed with salad greens, the succulent steak with French fries. All these interesting American dishes were matched with Robert Mondavi's Cabernet Sauvignon, a wine with great aroma, smooth and supple, framed with soft tannins, obviously rich, deep and lavishly oaked.

Day 3, a day with the Robert Mondavi

The best was saved for last. At 8:30 a.m., our stretched limousine was parked at the entrance of the Embassy Suites ready to transport us to the Robert Mondavi Winery.

We started with a district tour with our most gracious wine educator, Judy Meredith, and headed to the Carneros district. It was drizzling and muddy, but Judy made our trip so interesting. We went to the vineyards while the Mexicans were still pruning the vines for 25 cents per twig. As we tried to do a little of their work, I figured a worker would easily make $200 a day, which is not bad.

We took photos of the beautiful vineyards sans the canopy of leaves and grapes. It was covered with mustard yellow flowers everywhere.

Judy explained how their vines were stressed and controlled so as not to spoil the vines, thus giving more concentration to the quality rather than the quantity.

Robert Mondavi pioneered the making of typical California wines with the French influence of aging their wine in French oak barrels and strictly following the dictates of the Terroir, eventually blending the master stroke of the winemaker. Mondavi's vision to make their wines equal the Grand Crus Classe of Bordeaux, France, is now California's pride.

After the district tour, we headed back to the Robert Mondavi Winery and had lunch at the vineyard room. We were treated lavishly, reflecting the Robert Mondavi's hospitality and their belief that fine art, gastronomy and wine should be enjoyed together.

First, we had a creamy leek and Fennel Soup, Garlic Herb Croutons and Goat Cheese Crumble. This was paired with a 1999 Robert Mondavi Stags Leap District Sauvignon Blanc, a balanced, dry white wine aged in oak barrels with light oak undertones.

For the main course, Pan Roasted Duck Breast with Merlot Jus along with a Zucchini Pancake and Butterball Potatoes. A 1997 Robert Mondavi Carneros District Merlot complemented this wonderful main course. The wine offered aromas of plums and cherries, combined with hints of chocolate in rich, lush mouth feel typical of this varietal.

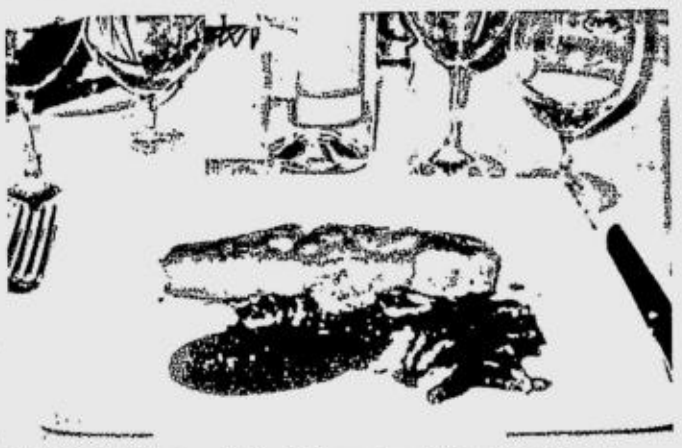
For dessert, a Meyer Lemon Polenta Pond Cake was served, along with strawberries and oranges, plus a 2000 Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Moscato d' Oro. Our compliments to Chef Michael Chipchase for the meticulously prepared and excellent meal.

Robert Mondavi and his lovely wife Margrit spent some time with us, having photo shoots with everyone, and made our day complete. We presented Robert a box of Philippine cigar and Margrit, a Katrina Golbourn *piña*-silk scarf, with grapevines embroidered on it. Glenda also gave her two books of Philippine cuisine, which they truly appreciated.

Last tour

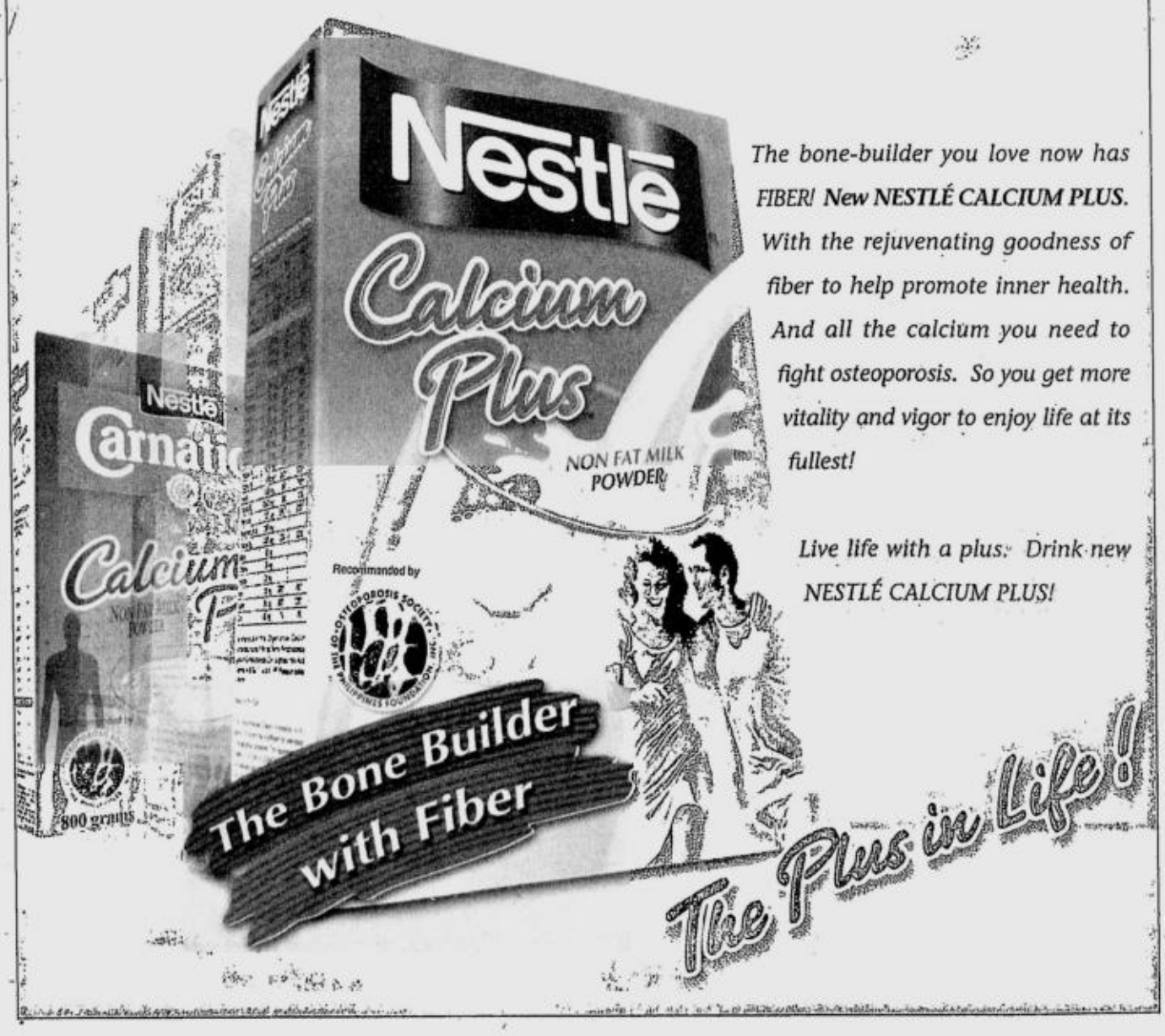
The last tour was the Opus Winery, founded in 1979 by two great winemakers, Baron Philippe de Rothschild and Robert Mondavi. This winery is the most envied in the whole Napa Valley because of its unique architecture. It looks like a modern spaceship amid the vineyard in Oakville. The Opus Winery was especially opened for us for an in-depth training. We enjoyed its modern facilities with French technologies everywhere. We indulged in the 1996 Opus One, a Bordeaux-style red blend comprised of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot—a very fine wine with great structure, so smooth, with fine tannins yet full-bodied. Oona Achard, the guest relations' coordinator, was very efficient and knowledgeable about this great wine.

Russel Weiss, our favorite Robert Mondavi executive, hosted the last night at the Bistro Jeanty. We talked, ate and drank as if there was no tomorrow. And as the night progressed, already we were reminiscing about our "Walk in the Clouds" experience in Napa Valley. Cheers!



AT JULIA'S Kitchen: Grilled Niman Ranch New York Steak-salisbury, portabello mushrooms, persillade, *au poivre* sauce

A new PLUS, a new name.



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Healing ministry honors Sto. Bambino with 'karakol'

THE PINAGPALANG Kamay Healing Ministry of Fr. Corsie S. Legaspi will sponsor its annual *karakol* in honor of the Sto. Bambino de Aracoeli, the Roman counterpart of the Sto. Niño, on May 1 in Binakayan, Cavite.

The devotion to Sto. Bambino had its origins in Rome, and has been observed in Italy for centuries, particularly at the Church of Aracoeli at the Piazza del Campidoglio in Rome, which houses the original image.

This devotion was introduced in the Philippines by Father Corsie, a well-known healing priest, who was captivated by the story of the Sto. Bambino. Since its inception here, a *karakol* has been held each year in its honor.

The May 1 *karakol* will commence with the celebration of Holy Mass at the chapel of the Coming Home Retreat Center for the Sick in Binakayan, and will dance its way on the national highway to Freedom Park across the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, where concluding ceremonies will be held, such as the awarding of prizes for best costume, best band and best dance group.

At sundown the image of the Sto. Bambino, together with that of Mary, Help of the Sick, will return in formal procession to the chapel of the Coming Home Retreat Center for the sick in Binakayan, currently the shrine of the Sto. Bambino in the Philippines.

She wants to marry her BF despite her parents' opposition

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm in my fourth year in college. Because my grades are not that good, my parents asked me to break up with my boyfriend of three years so I could concentrate on my studies more. The truth is that Jake has been an inspiration to me and is very kind to me. However, my parents do not believe this and even said he is not the right guy for me.

He has finished a two-year course but has not found a job. He plans to leave our town to look for a job and to convince my parents we are following their wishes. I'm afraid the distance will affect my studies badly, and I don't know how I will survive Jake's absence.

That's why we are thinking of getting married secretly to assure each other of our love despite the distance and my parents' opposition. Then, after I finish college, I can defend him and our relationship before my parents. We really love each other. Do you agree with our plans?

FLIGHT 25

I'm sorry, but I don't. First, there is the legal side. Before getting married, you have to present parental consent. But here are the other reasons.

Of course, if you two are of legal age, a marriage would make you feel emotionally closer to each other even when he is in another town. But that won't change the law of physics: physically you will still be apart. And because marriage would entitle the two of you to be physically and intimately close, then being married and being apart might only make you feel that the true problem is not him but your grades. How will missing him help you with your studies?

You have Jake. You do not have, however, the grades that will assure you of a college degree. You yourself had defined the problem and the solution when you said you would defend your relationship with Jake.

And Jake's true problem is not you, but a job. He has you, but he does not have the job that will convince your parents he is good enough for you.

A secret marriage will not solve your problem. What it could do, instead, is just complicate things and create more distractions for you: if you were married to him and he moves to another town, what you would be missing is not just a boyfriend but a husband. And if he falls in love with another girl there, then what you will be losing is not just a boyfriend, but a husband.

Break your word to your parents and continue your relationship with Jake if you must. But don't get married, not yet, at least. You can wait two or three years and gain the strength to defy great distances and the maturity to recognize priorities. After all, distance makes the heart grow fonder. For now, it's enough to assure each other of continuing love and postpone plans for marriage.

I would like to invite senior citizens to send their complaints, suggestions or even comments to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263, Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City, or e-mail titadulce@netscape.net. I plan to devote one column a week to concerns of senior citizens, many of whom also need help in solving their problems

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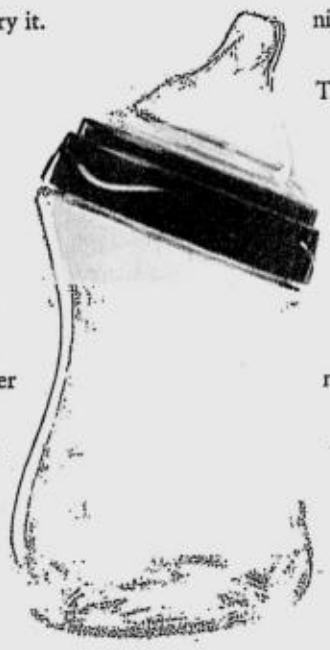
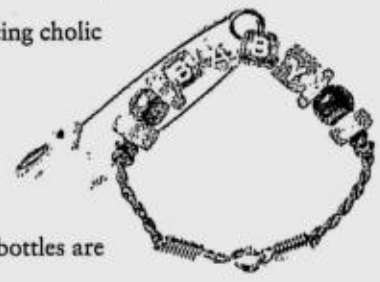


An ingenious innovation to complement the wonders of breastfeeding. While mothers can't always enjoy this special time with her child, pumping breast milk is the next best thing. So we created a bottle for a smooth transition, which can meet your child's needs.

Unlike other nipples, Evenflo Elite has a gentle sloping shape, allowing your child to latch on comfortably. What's more, the Evenflo Elite has a nipple that reacts to your child's suckling. Made from soft and flexible silicone, it adjusts to your child's pressure while feeding so it can give out just the right amount of liquid.

We even thought about your child's age. Our nipples are made with different flow capabilities. There's the "slow flow", the "medium flow" and the "fast flow". It's an innovation that gives the right flow based on your child's age and feeding needs. And what about the nipple cover? Its unique shape features an inner wall that creates a barrier to help keep the nipple clean at all times. Plus, our nipple cover comes with ventilation holes that circulates air evenly.

Cholic problems will likewise be a thing of the past. Directly under the nipple are Micro Air Vents which keep air from your child's tummy. These vents allow air to return to the bottle preventing nipple collapse and greatly reducing cholic pains. Not to mention sleepless hours.



And while other bottles are stuck with an upright design, Evenflo Elite's unusual form serves a significant purpose. Its pediatric angled bottle helps keep the nipple filled to reduce air intake and promotes semi-upright feeding. This lessens the chances of inner ear infection. Plus, its wide opening and ergonomic shape makes for easy handling and cleaning.

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Raul Teehankee

Flag down!

AT 19, **Paolo Martel** became one of the country's youngest and independent publishers when he launched his CAR monthly magazine. Is the youthful scion up to the task? We don't know. At least, he held a great launching party at The Fort, complete with an exhibition of exotic cars, flowing drinks and a sumptuous buffet catered by The Plaza's **Millie Reyes.**

Another young man making a name for himself in the automotive scene is **Jean Pierre (JP) Tuason**, son of the late "karter" **Arthur Tuason**. JP is following in his father's footsteps and he will be driving a Formula 3 in the international circuit this year. During the unveiling of his Formula 3 at Glorietta a week ago, Oxygen also launched its Formula One Collection in support of the Tuason Racing Team. And speed does run in the blood. Brother **Mike Tuason** is not only go-kart champion of the Philippines, he is also Asia's No. 1 in the race category.

EDU Manzano

MIKEE Romero

JESSE Sarmiento

ANGELO Barretto

ASIA'S go-kart champ Mike Tuason

Baddeo in DOT's Flores de Mayo

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism's Flores de Mayo 2002 will be held on May 5, 4 p.m., at the DOT grounds.

Miss Asia-Pacific runner-up and reigning Mutya ng Pilipinas Darlene Carbungco will wear a *terno* in sea blue green silk gazar/chiffon with airbrushed bias skirt and stylized resin silver metal sleeves by couturier Eddie Baddeo. Escort Herbert Medina will wear a *piña* barong with aqua blue *camisa de Chino* also by Baddeo. Hair and makeup by Eric Maningat and bouquet by Tony Rodriguez.

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Right at the center. In the quiet side of town.

New high-end Swiss watches launched

RADO of Switzerland launched recently its newest line of high-end watches: the Ovation. The launching was held during the formal inauguration of the first branch of Montre, a high-end watch store at The Podium. The event was highlighted by The World of Music (TWM), which was hosted by Angelique Lazo. TWM featured Aquarela's Brazilian and Latin music. Douglas Nierras' Powerdance also gave a surprise production number. The launching was top entertainment for Ovation's kind of people.

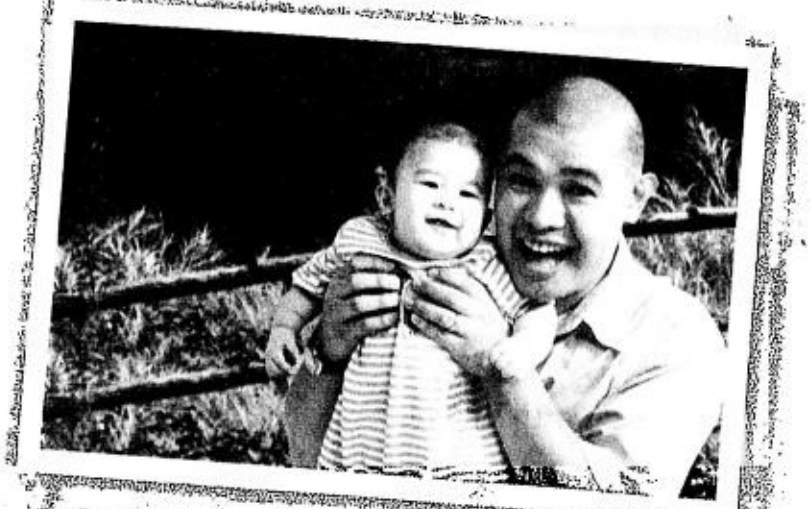
Present during the launch were Rado's vice president Peter Kaser and Rado's regional sales manager Marcus Schmid, with special guests Peter Casaulta of the Embassy of Switzerland and Mary Anne Lumen.

Based on the design of the highly successful classic—the oval DiaStar, the Ovation captures the spirit of today's exclusive set. It is a statement of the wearer's individuality, good taste and success. It is dressy and unobtrusive, blending well with formal wear, but at the same time elegantly simple even for casual occasions.

Like other Rado watches, the Ovation is a high-tech wonder that combines the brilliance and beauty of expensive jewelry and the functionality of a highly accurate timepiece. The watch uses one of the hardest substances synthesized by man, the same hard metal ceramic—or titanium carbide powder—used for the space shuttle. The Ovation's face, watch body and bracelet are made of hard metal guaranteed to be scratchproof and to retain its beauty and luster for more than a lifetime.

The Ovation comes in three sizes and three dial variations. It is available in Montre.

Kodak CAMERAS



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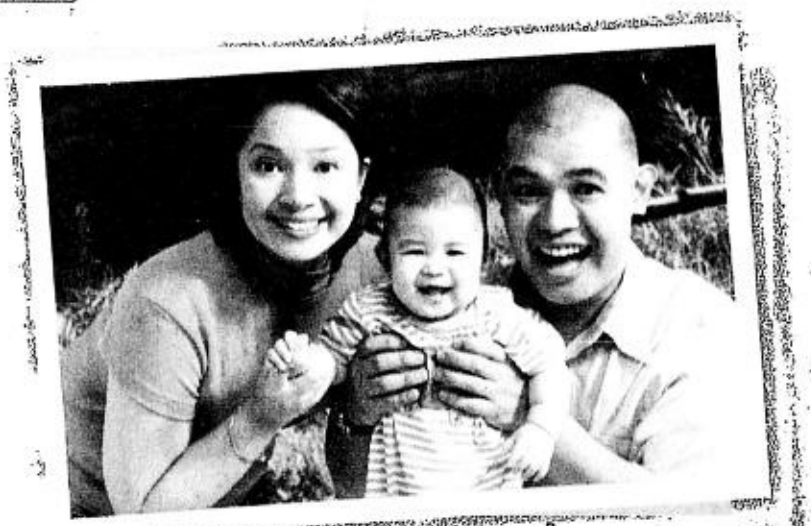

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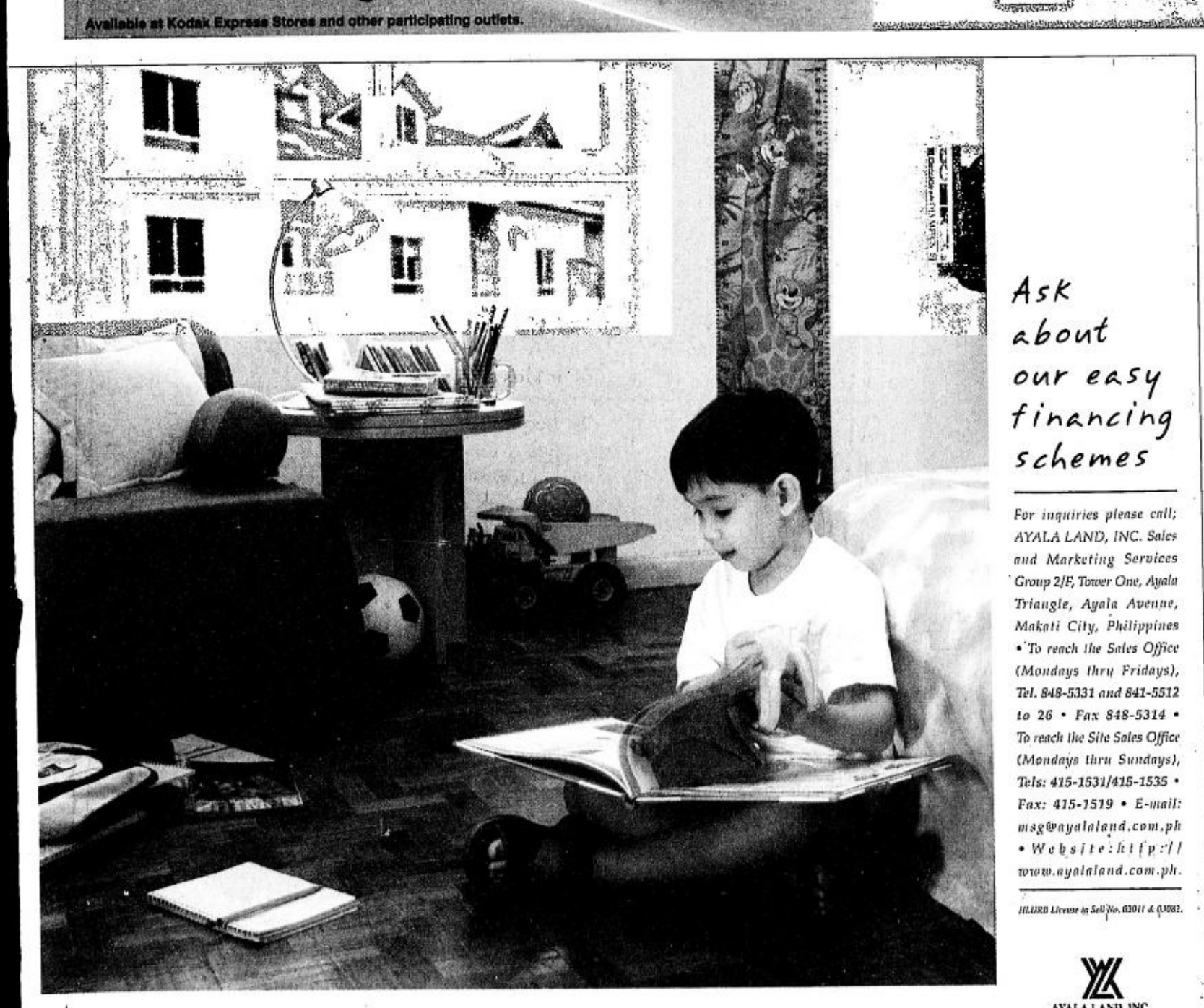

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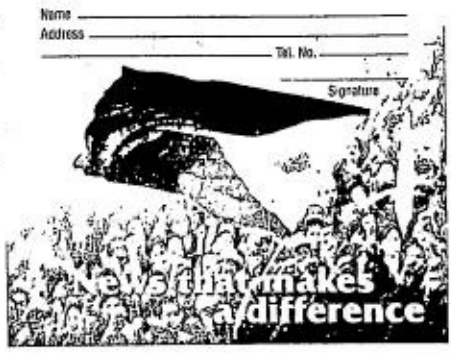

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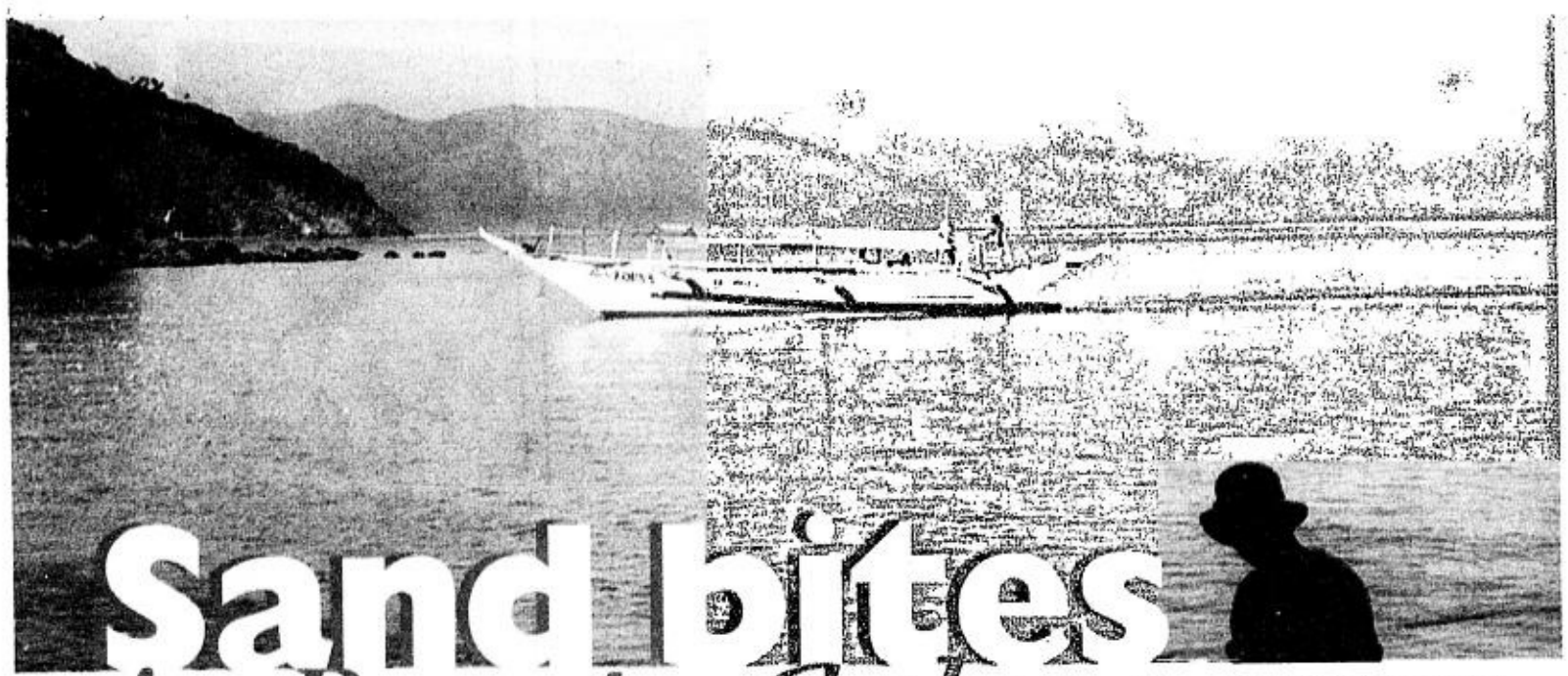
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



Sand bites in Puerto Galera

BEACHCOMBER catching a moment when brother sun meets sister moon

Text and photos by Lynett A. Villariba

WE follow the "G" that says Getaway! to the white sands of Puerto Galera. Driving to the port city of Batangas from Quezon City alongside the dawn breaking while the rest of the city lies asleep is already our getaway into the real.

This is the dawn that the Cat Stevens of a flower era sang about in his classic ode, "Morning has broken." We had been missing it in the daily grind of pounding thoughts on computer keys, only to obtain a view confined to pixels and bytes of virtual images on the monitor screen. Well, goodbye, virtual, and hello, reality. I can breathe you now and for the rest of my (brief) vacation leaves.

There is something sublime in taking off, in getting away, in journeying. Whether motoring in a spacious van on the South Luzon Expressway, winding down highways, cutting through the Batangas Star Tollway or cruising the waters of Mindoro in a 50-passenger motorboat, the rhythm of traveling fuses with the beat of your pulse. Even the rough waves at midday roll and rock to the throb of drums and cymbals until the boat riders erupt into cheers at the sight of land—"Beach, ho!"

As the holiday seekers disembark, their feet land in deep impression on the white sands of Puerto Galera that will last through the next sojourn.

Boat by boat, city slickers make like there is no other place but here, in spite of it being a heavily hyped destination. By the hour they come like there is no other time but now, in spite of it being peak travel *cum* Holy Week.

They arrive in search of a brief paradise, only to be greeted by hawkers they were trying to get away from—selling anything from prepaid cards to beach bandanas. Globe makes a presence but loses its signal, and the hyped "G" turns into "Grrrl" The spirits of San Miguel (the beer, not the saint) pervade the "holy days" with unholy drinking and fun contests. It isn't the best time to get away to but the freebies that go with an invitation lure us to explore the place. That is, if we get to find it in the crowd.

It seems like an entire gentxt has landed, lugging its "Baywatch" fantasies and getting body paint, a tan, a braid and a massage on the sand. In the noon heat, old-fashioned ice-crushed *halo-halo* provides stiff competition to ice-cold commercial drinks. Afternoons are filled with more ways to expend youthful energy: beach volleyball, jetskiing, snorkeling, sand sculpting, bikini ogling. On Easter eve, the irreverent ones party all night, watch a best-in-bikini contest, dance on the sand, in the moonlight. The gods of commerce made sure to fill up the time of their life and break our sedentary lives.

We figure that the best time to enjoy Puerto Galera, the beach (as distinguished from the diving reefs or the private Ayala beachfront), is at daybreak, when the spent hypercrowd takes a rest. But it is quite a feat to get up early after barely sleeping through the raucous night.

What becomes apparent is that, devoid of urban invaders, White Beach cove is an artist's landscape. The stretch of sand, while not so fine, is creamy white, and underneath the beach water lies a bed of pebbles that have witnessed the constant ebb and flow of the waves. The cove is bounded by rocks that jut out to sea from both ends. This is the scenic wonder that a gay crowd fails to see.

On the rocks where you stare out to sea, you recall history. Puerto Galera was a docking port for galleon ships during the Spanish era. It was also a site of sunken ships, which launched many diving expeditions for sunken treasures, the most recent of which is a treasure trove of artifacts. Today the other cove is a favorite diving site for exploring whatever remains of its past. Puerto Galera is a destination as far as any *bakasyonista* can get out of Luzon.

Away from the madding crowd, we find our peace saluting the sun rising out of the misty blue yonder. Above us, only sky. Nothing comes between heaven and us now.

The best way to spend a day at the beach is to rise with the sun and go down with the sun. In between, we race to raise our sandcastles before our fantasies are swept away by the sea. We stamp our footprints on the sand, meditating on a holy note even as the prints will soon get buried in oblivion by the invading horde.

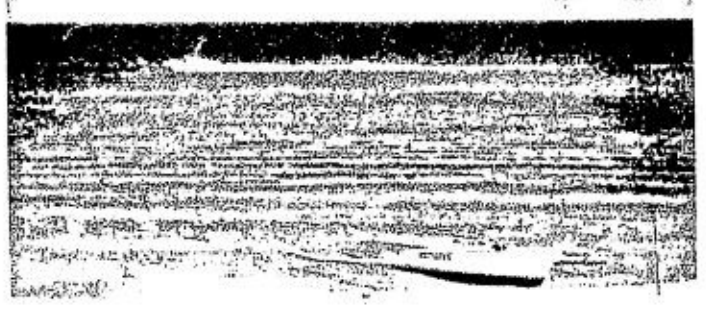
At dusk, we lie on a bed of sand in awe and wonder of the Divine Artist painting a canvas of blue, then lavender turning purplish, now a tinge of tangerine here, and a dab of golden yellow there.

While waiting for the great vermilion orb to go down in an awesome splash on the horizon, comes a meditative moment telling us that we all are many rays of a single sun.

Even as the images are fleeting, the vacation is real. You get back to city life but you still taste the salty sea breeze, still feel the sun's power energizing your sunscreened body. Only your tan and color photographs serve as proof of the sand bites and sunny disposition you take with you.

But what makes those getaway moments real is the discovery that in the frenzy of getting a life, we forget what we are getting away from. We find that there is nothing to get away from, only a whole lot of living to get into.

PERCHED on a chunk of eternity



IMMERSION in the green-blue waters

FINDING one's art in the sand

BEACH LIFE going down with the sun

DYNAMIC still life

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72-year-old Jesuit priest builds more chapels in Marikina

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AT 72, any man would be fazed in tackling the tasks of a parish priest. But not Fr. Sim Sunpayco, S.J., who has been the parish priest of Parokya ni San Jose Manggagawa since June 1, 2001. The parish is situated on Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina. It serves a community of 40,000 people broken into small communities with their own chapels.

With the coming fiesta on May 1, feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the small chapel communities are busy. Bishop Crisostomo Yalung will officiate the confirmation rites on that day. Right now, a big chapel is being built that will become a parish church later. There are at least six chapels in the area.

Father Sim was the rector of San Jose Seminary for six years. Then, he was assigned to the Basic Ecclesial Community Service Office at Xavier House that responds to the BEC needs of dioceses in Ipil, Romblon, Legazpi and Zamboanga.

As pastor of a congested urban parish of 40,000 people, he works with five chapel pastoral councils and the coordinating parish council. Assisting in the 178 Masses held throughout the month are priests from San Jose Seminary, Ateneo, Loyola House of Studies and Manila Observatory.

Father Sim continues the work started by other Jesuits who founded the parish 25 years ago. But he is not alone. There are others who help him, such as Bro. Joey Davide, S.J., who is on his year of regency, an Indonesian priest, a fellow Jesuit who does the best he can despite being sick. And there are the Little Brothers of Jesus, Formation Houses of the Cenacle Sisters, Daughters of St. Paul, Hijas de Jesus, Sons of Charity who are praying for him and the parishioners.

When he was starting to construct two more chapels last year, Father Sim tried to raise P10 million for the bigger chapel. First, Christmas cards were sent to relatives and friends with a pledge form for donations. And there was also money to be raised—P4,000 a month to print the newsletter O San Jose, which is given out free.

To save money, Father Sim commutes instead of using a car; uses a local phone instead of a cell phone; drinks instant coffee instead of brewed coffee. And, of course, the simple folk in the community offer nourishing food.

The San Jose Tañong Chorale headed by Jerry Olaguer as choirmaster and composed of 11 young people sing during the Masses and make worship more fervent.

If you wish to help, write to Fr. Sim Sunpayco, S.J., at Parokya ni San Jose Manggagawa, Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City, or call 941-3796.

Answered prayers from St. Expeditus

THE RECENT fiesta of St. Expeditus, advocate of urgent cases, at St. Andrew Church in La Huerta, Parañaque, gathered many devotees from other places.

Aida Velasco de Leon from Baliuag, Bulacan, attested to the saint's miraculous intercession. After being denied a US visa in 1996, she finally was able to get one on Dec. 8, 2000 after praying to St. Expeditus. Her son, Joseph Eric, was able to pass the ECE exams on April 8 and the saint always intercedes for financial assistance.

Fr. Jun Interno celebrated the Mass before the procession. Fr. Omer Prieto, former parish priest of St. Andrew Church who installed the image of St. Expeditus on April 10, 1994, came to talk about his own miraculous experience.

On April 18, an 81-year-old parishioner of the Holy Family Parish in Roxas District, QC gave him a car, which was a blessing because Father Omer sold his pick-up to help the parochial school in his parish. Father Omer will enthrone the image of St. Expeditus in his parish on May 18, 6:30 p.m. Devotees are invited. Those who want novena prayers can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Prayer to St. Expeditus

"I ASK you, St. Expeditus, to aid me in my financial difficulties. Let your strength and support protect my income and help me obtain enough money so that I will not suffer need or want. Please let peace and enjoyment reign in my household. I ask you and pray that my wishes will be granted and glorify your intercession. Amen."

In order to thank the saint, the petitioner will give alms to a child and elderly person or to a pregnant woman. Make sure there is always one coin offered to St. Expeditus in gratitude.

Donation to Bantay Bata

ANTONIA Martel, 17-year-old daughter of Tony and Belen Martel, is concerned about poor children.

In a recent fashion show for a cause at Dish in Rockwell, friends, relatives and the young crowd came to buy tickets. The net proceeds of P464,800 went to Bantay Bata 163, a program of ABS-CBN Foundation.

If only more rich kids were like her. Helping Antonia were Marga Villanueva, Chinkee Clemente and sponsors Ralph Wines & Spirits, MAC, Franck Provost, Shakey's, McDonald's, Figaro, Harrison Plaza and C! Magazine. Kate Contreras received the donation on behalf of Bantay Bata 163.

National Year of the Heart 2002

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared 2002 as the National Year of the Heart through Presidential Proclamation 137, and years 2002 to 2012 as Decade of Cardiology.

I hope the President will find time to launch it on May 22 when the Phlippine Heart Association holds its annual convention May 22-25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

This is good news for those suffering from cardiovascular diseases, the No. 2 killer, according to Dr. Edgar Ortiz, PHA president.

This is interesting because cardiologist Rafael Castillo recently found me with a ischemic heart. This means proper intake of prescribed medicines and a healthy diet. Take care of your heart, says Dr. Ortiz, who gave me this quote that he wants to share with everyone.

"When you run so fast to get somewhere, you will miss the fun of getting there. Life is not a race, so take it slow. Hear the music before the song is over."

Pilgrimage to Cascia

DEVOTEES of Sta. Rita de Cascia would be happy to know that Catholic Travel is organizing a pilgrimage from May 12 to June 2, so they can visit Cascia in time for the saint's feast on May 22.

Included in the itinerary are Lourdes, Santander, Covagonda, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima, Lisbon, Madrid, Toledo, Zaragoza, Nice, Monte Carlo, Assisi, Lanciano and Rome.

Call the Catholic Travel at 523-2490 or Elenita Grande at 631-9571.

St. Pancratius novena

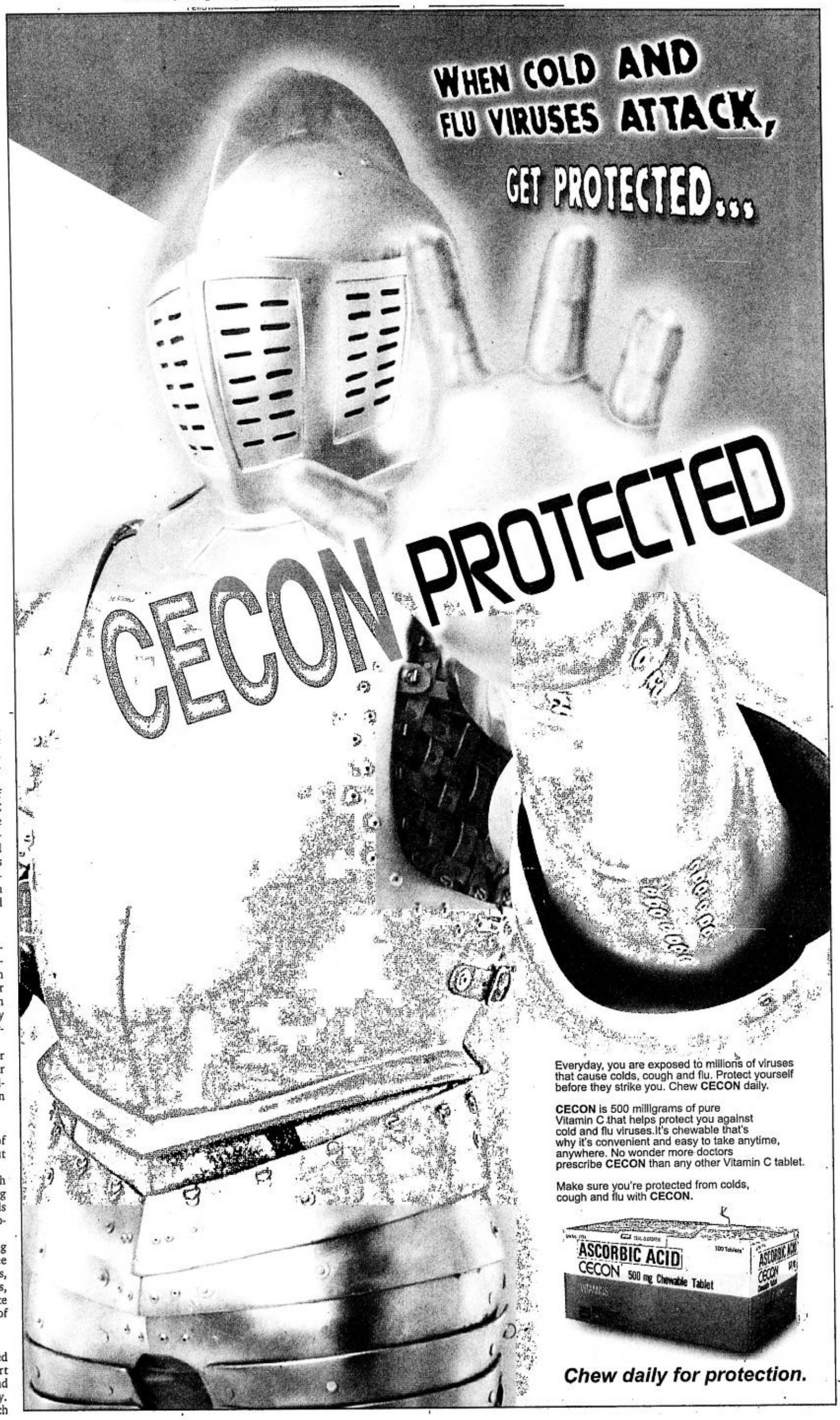
THERE'S a beautiful chapel of St. Pancratius at Paco Park. The feast of the saint is on May 12. Novena begins on May 3, 6 p.m., until May 11. Sunday and fiesta Masses are at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

St. Pancratius is the patron of good health and good jobs. He was a Roman soldier who was martyred during the time of Emperor Diocletian. You can find his image at the St. Pancratius Chapel in La Loma, QC; Paco Church and Binondo Church.

St. Joseph in Las Piñas

THE CITY of Las Piñas will celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 5, first Sunday of May. The miraculous image is called Tata Husep. Devotees from various places go to Tata Husep to ask for his intercession. Happy feast day, St. Joseph.

FR. Sim Sunpayco, S.J.



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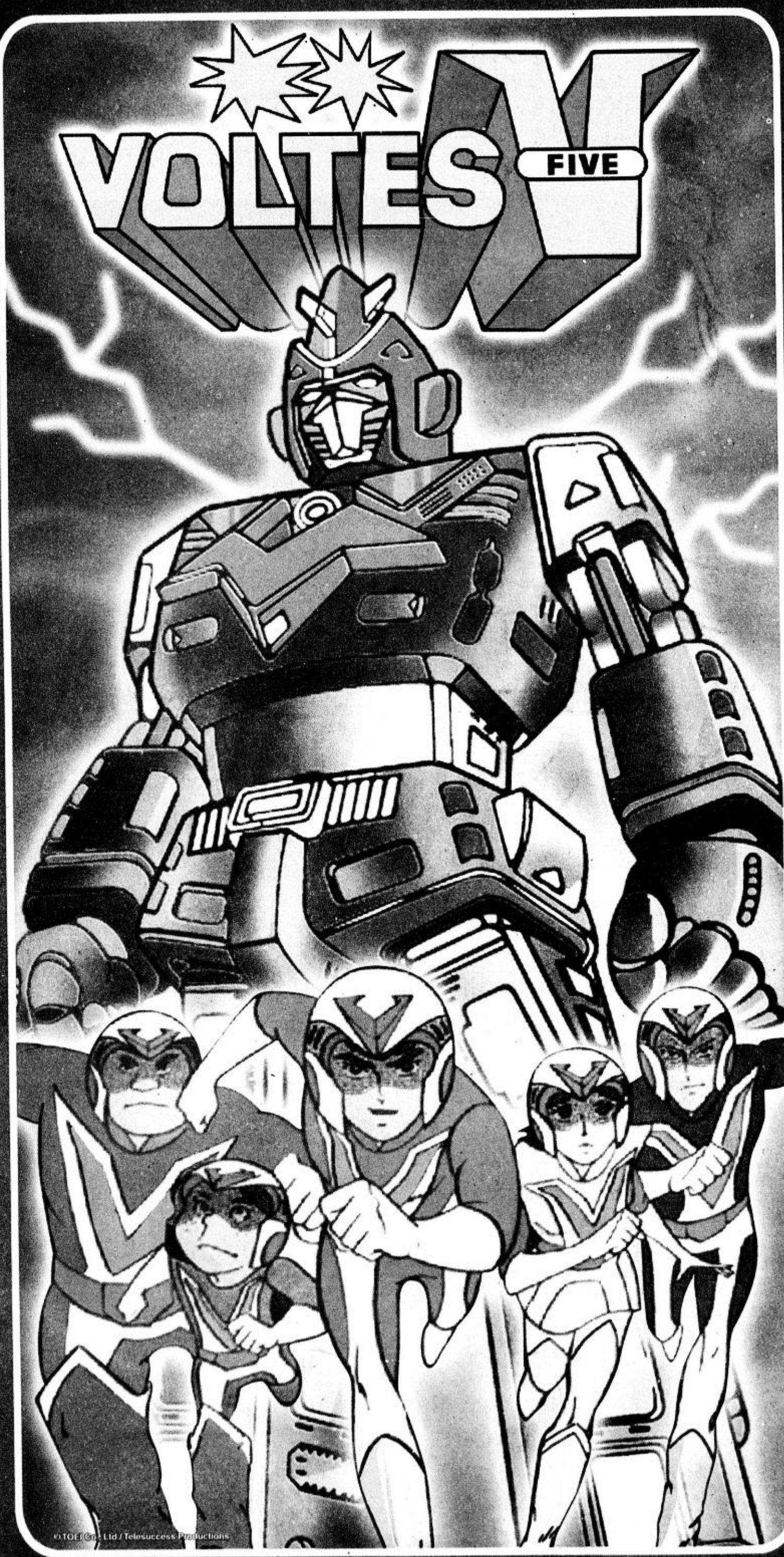
VOLTES V FIVE



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The battle of Voltes V over evil continues with SMART's Anime Mania! See Voltes V battle their archenemies -- the Prince Zardos-led Boazanian army. Take the Voltes V challenge by answering the trivia questions! Get exclusive anime logos, picture messages, screen savers and ringtones. See if you have what it takes to be part of the Voltes Team through a text-based trivia game! You can even build on the fun by inviting friends to be part of the anime circle!

To join, key in **JOIN ANIME** and send to **235**. (Once a member, you can download exclusive anime logos, picture messages, screen savers and ringtones.)

To invite a friend, key in **INVITE** <invitee's SMART celfone number> and send to **235**. (You can invite up to 3 friends per message.)

To play the trivia game, key in **PLAY V5TRIVIA1** and send to **235**.

To access higher trivia levels, key in **PLAY V5TRIVIA2** or **PLAY V5TRIVIA3**, and send to **235**.

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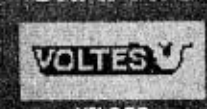
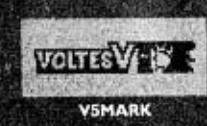


V5LOGO



V5MARK

V5JAMIE

V5ZARDOS

To Get V5...	Key In...
•List of Logo Keywords	LOGO V5 and send to 235
•Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 235
•List of Group Graphic Keywords	GROUP V5 and send to 235
•Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 235
•List of Picture Message Keywords	PIC V5 and send to 235
•Picture Messsages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 235
•List of Screen Saver Keywords	SAVER V5 and send to 235
•Screen Savers*	SAVER <keyword> and send to 235
•Help on the Commands	HELP and send to 235
•For Anime comments and suggestions	FEEDBACK <message> and send to 235

To Download Ringtones*...

Key in TONE <keyword> and send to 235.
Choose from:
V5OPEN1
V5OPEN2
V5OPEN3
V5CLOSE1
V5CLOSE2

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

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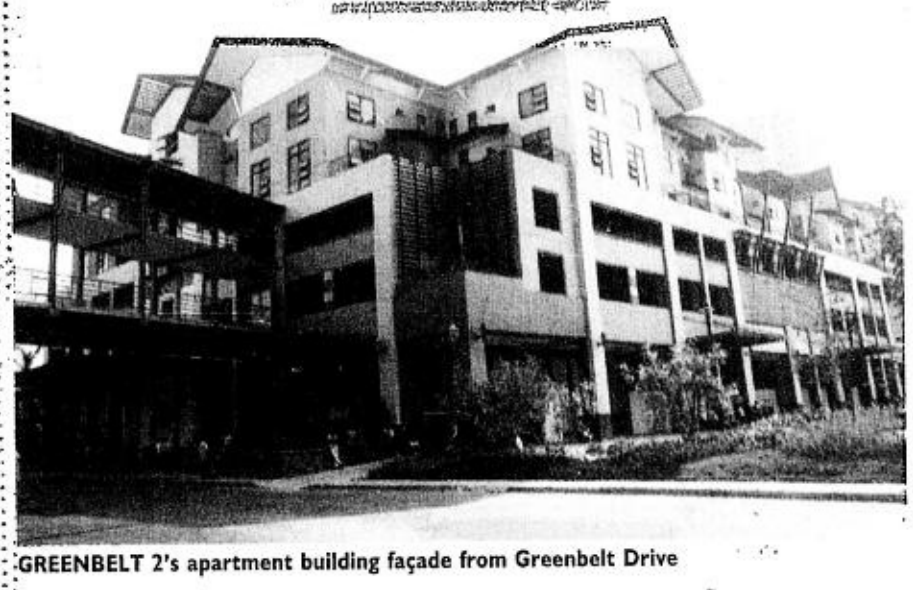
Sunday LIFESTYLE



GREENBELT 2's apartment building façade from Greenbelt Drive

Greenbelt redefines malling experience

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

PICTURE millions of visitors annually strolling along marble flooring, beneath skylights, amid trees and plants, past fountains. You'll probably think some billionaire's fabulous mansion-turned-museum.

Actually, it's just Greenbelt 1, 2, 3 and 4 at Ayala Center in Makati City. The mall's elegance, drama and attention to detail signify how shopping has been redefined. What was once a mundane chore will now be an experience. The 12-hectare shopping complex will no longer be simply a place to pass time while you're in the neighborhood. Greenbelt Mall will surely become a major destination.

Greenbelt, which started in 1989 with No. 1, just keeps getting bigger, better and more innovative. "Greenbelt 1 is the specialty, convenience and fast-food area. This is where we have basic services like the spa, parlor, drug store and regular fastfood restaurants," says Rowena Manhit-Tomeldan, assistant vice president of Ayala Land Inc.'s commercial centers group.

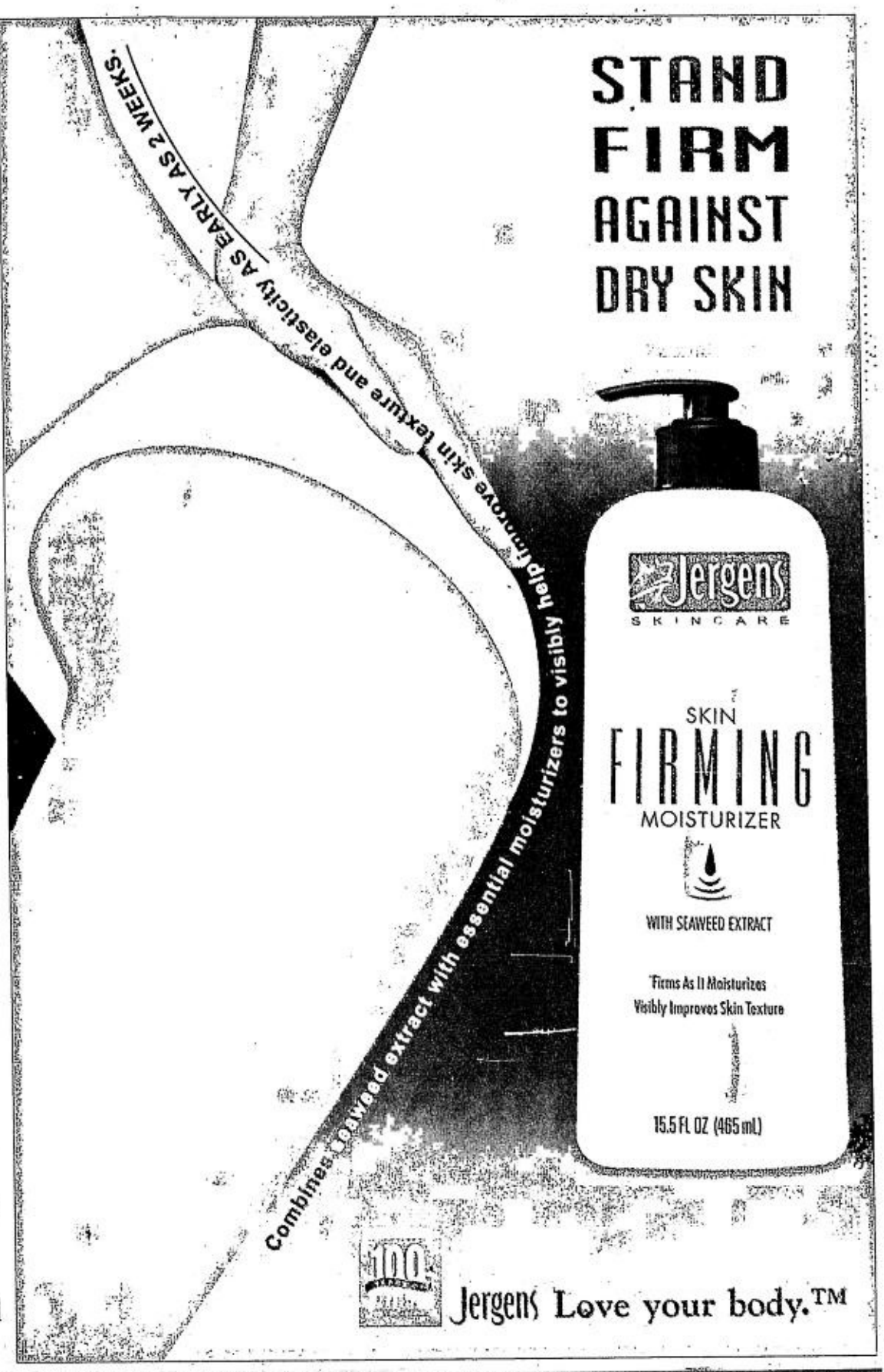
Greenbelt 2 and 3 were constructed in June 2000. The areas used to be occupied by a supermarket and restaurants. "When their contracts expired, that's when we decided to start the redevelopment of the sites," says Tomeldan.

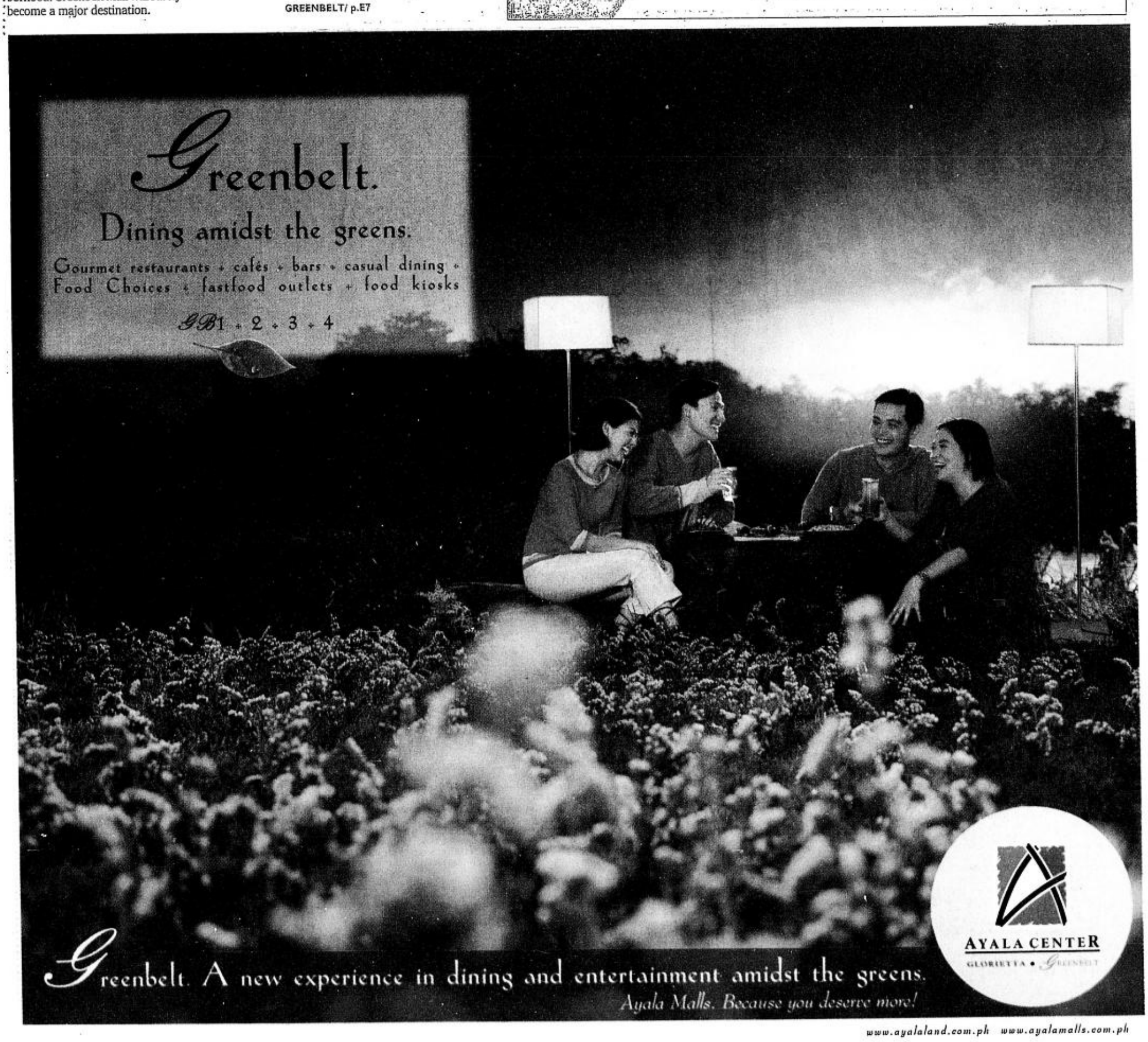
The excavation of Greenbelt 4 has been completed. It will open next year.

The new Greenbelt promises to be motorist-and-pedestrian-friend-

This mall will no longer be simply a place to pass time while you're in the neighborhood

GREENBELT/ p.E7





Turquoise is hot accessory for summer

T'NT trend report—Two ways of wearing turquoise: Raw (from Bazaar)...

... OR interspersed with other stones, free-form necklace of coral branches, Iranian and Turkish turquoise, Biwa and baroque pearls, citrine, faceted lemon quartz crystal and mother of pearl by Wynn Wynn Ong

T'NT trend report—turquoise. This is the hottest stone/color accessory for summer. From necklaces, shoes, bags and belts, its appeal is universal.

Turquoise, considered one of the four sacred stones of the Navajo Indians, has been regarded as a valuable talisman. It represents protection, courage, money, love, friendship, healing and luck. Before you get any wrong ideas, stop thinking of it as the next Buddhist bead.

With the return of the hippie look, the turquoise, which has been associated with that era, has likewise made its presence felt. Suggestion: wear it as raw turquoise necklace or interspersed with other semi-precious stones to give it an updated and hip look.

Eye spy—week in review. Last Saturday I was invited to **Ernest Santiago**'s residence in Pagsanjan along with **Bonjin Bolinao, Mayenne Carmona** and **Lily O' Boyle** who's visiting from the States. Although it was supposed to be a one-and-a-half hour ride, it became three hours because of the traffic at South Superhighway.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

So what does one do for three hours in a super comfortable Volvo? Chat, listen to music and observe the scenery. I noticed that the trees alongside the highway looked vibrant in their bright yellow color. Despite what the Marcoses did, **Imelda** deserves a thumbs up for her beautification program.

As soon as we got to the house, we were greeted by a platinum-haired Ernest whose new look fits him to a T. We toured his home, a mixture of Filipino and Balinese styles with shades of Warhol and Coco Banana.

When lunch was ready, we were served the best Pinoy meal I had in ages. There were a huge heart of palm with *misu* (my favorite) salad of thinly sliced *singkamas*, white cheese and young fern leaves; smoked *tulingan* (tuna) with broiled eggplant and pickled *ampalaya*; *ginataang manok* with mustard leaves; Ernest's famous chicken and pork *adobo* cooked in chicken liver (divine!).

For dessert, the freshest pineapples and mangoes. What made the meal more appealing was it was served on antique *kamaos* and *bandejados*. I returned to the buffet table about three times. It was that good! To make reservations in his restaurant, call Gallery 83 at (049) 808-4967 or fax (049) 821-0251.

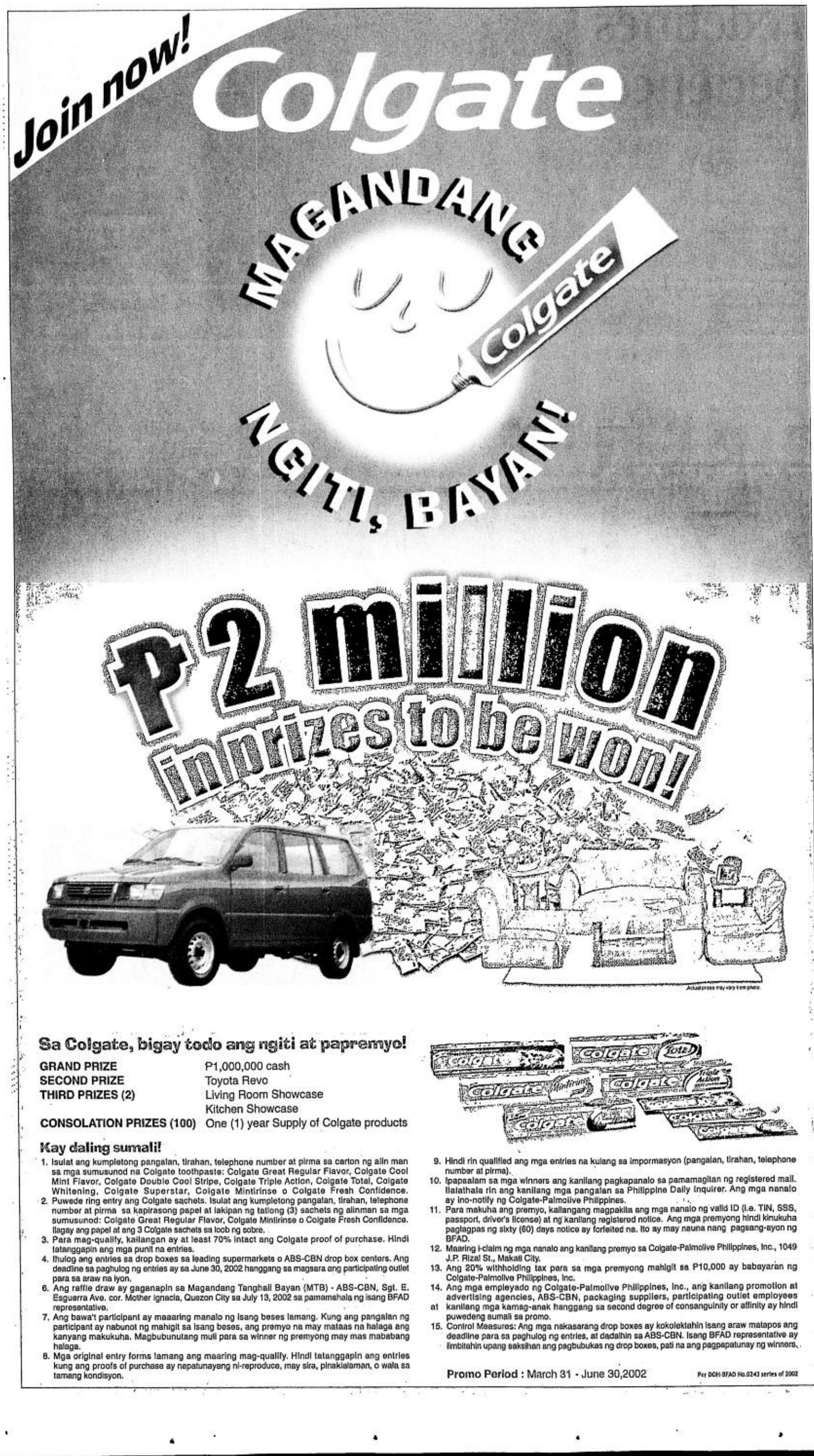
Over lunch, I asked Ernest about the legendary Coco Banana because I was doing a story on Manila's disco scene for Tatler. He shared with us all the wild and fun times he had as the owner of the legendary club. He told me of the time when two lesbian lovers had a fight. One was jealous because the other was flirting with another person. The more "butch" of the pair started crushing light bulbs using her bare hands. Wow, she was even ahead of Xena, the warrior princess.

I asked who were the frequent visitors of the disco: **Christina Valdez, Wolfgang Bierlein, Linda Besa, Linda Oledan, Maning Obregon, Petusa, Ruben Nazareth, Elena Azabache, Wahoo Guerrero, Louie Cruz, Budji Layug** and models **Anna Bayle, Minnie Cagatao, Lani Aquino** and **Gina Leviste**.

Those were the days: less restricting, carefree, innocent and definitely more fun. And to think that this was during the martial law to Edsa 1 years. Today's nightlife is more jaded, with music you can't sing to and an easily bored youth. I was not able to step into this legendary club, but it would be nice to relive that era. That might just happen, sooner than you think!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

FOR THE BEST Pinoy food, visit Ernest Santiago's Gallery 83. Shown is Ernest Santiago with Lily O'Boyle.



Sa Colgate, bigay todo ang ngiti at papremyo!

GRAND PRIZE	P1,000,000 cash
SECOND PRIZE	Toyota Revo
THIRD PRIZES (2)	Living Room Showcase Kitchen Showcase
CONSOLATION PRIZES (100)	One (1) year Supply of Colgate products

Kay daling sumali!

1. Isulat ang kumpletong pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at pirma sa carton ng alin man sa mga sumusunod na Colgate toothpaste: Colgate Great Regular Flavor, Colgate Cool Mint Flavor, Colgate Double Cool Stripe, Colgate Triple Action, Colgate Total, Colgate Whitening, Colgate Superstar, Colgate Mintirinse o Colgate Fresh Confidence.
2. Puwede ring entry ang Colgate sachets. Isulat ang kumpletong pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at pirma sa kapirasong papel at lakipan ng tatlong (3) sachets ng alinman sa mga sumusunod: Colgate Great Regular Flavor, Colgate Mintirinse o Colgate Fresh Confidence. Ilagay ang papel at ang 3 Colgate sachets sa loob ng sobre.
3. Para mag-qualify, kailangan ay at least 70% intact ang Colgate proof of purchase. Hindi tatanggapin ang mga punit na entries.
4. Ihulog ang entries sa drop boxes sa leading supermarkets o ABS-CBN drop box centers. Ang deadline sa paghulog ng entries ay sa June 30, 2002 hanggang sa magsara ang participating outlet para sa araw na iyon.
6. Ang raffle draw ay gaganapin sa Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB) - ABS-CBN, Sgt. E. Esguerra Ave. cor. Mother Ignacia, Quezon City sa July 13, 2002 sa pamamahala ng isang BFAD representative.
7. Ang bawa't participant ay maaaring manalo ng isang beses lamang. Kung ang pangalan ng participant ay nabunot ng mahigit sa isang beses, ang premyo na may mataas na halaga ang kanyang makukuha. Magbubunutang muli para sa winner ng premyong may mas mababang halaga.
8. Mga original entry forms lamang ang maaring mag-qualify. Hindi tatanggapin ang entries kung ang proofs of purchase ay napatunayang ni-reproduce, may sira, pinakialaman, o wala sa tamang kondisyon.

9. Hindi rin qualified ang mga entries na kulang sa impormasyon (pangalan, tirahan, telephone number at pirma).
10. Ipapaalam sa mga winners ang kanilang pagkapanalo sa pamamagitan ng registered mail. Ilalathala rin ang kanilang mga pangalan sa Philippine Daily Inquirer. Ang mga nanalo ay ino-notify ng Colgate-Palmolive Philippines.
11. Para makuha ang premyo, kailangang magpakita ang mga nanalo ng valid ID (i.e. TIN, SSS, passport, driver's license) at ng kanilang registered notice. Ang mga premyong hindi kinukuha paglagpas ng sixty (60) days notice ay forfeited na. Ito ay may nauna nang pagsang-ayon ng BFAD.
12. Maaring i-claim ng mga nanalo ang kanilang premyo sa Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Inc., 1049 J.P. Rizal St., Makati City.
13. Ang 20% withholding tax para sa mga premyong mahigit sa P10,000 ay babayaran ng Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Inc.
14. Ang mga empleyado ng Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Inc., ang kanilang promotion at advertising agencies, ABS-CBN, packaging suppliers, participating outlet employees at kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of consanguinity or affinity ay hindi puwedeng sumali sa promo.
15. Control Measures: Ang mga nakasarang drop boxes ay kokolektahin isang araw matapos ang deadline para sa paghulog ng entries, at dadalhin sa ABS-CBN. Isang BFAD representative ay iimbitahin upang saksihan ang pagbubukas ng drop boxes, pati na ang pagpapatunay ng winners.

Promo Period : March 31 - June 30,2002

Per DOH-BFAD No.0243 series of 2002

Promo raffles off pick-up truck and house and lot

CELEBRATE summer at Robinsons and get a chance to own a brand-new pickup truck or a brand-new house and lot, tax-free.

Robinsons Malls, with Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter, is holding a nationwide grand summer raffle promotion dubbed as "Hanep Buhay" till May 31.

A brand-new Mitsubishi pickup loaded with P50,000 worth of groceries, and a house and lot at South Square Village in General Trias, Cavite, await two lucky winners. Plus 200 winners will be pre-drawn on June 7 to receive P1,000 worth of gift certificates. The grand raffle draw will be held in "Eat Bulaga" on June 14.

To join, shoppers should purchase P300 worth (single receipt) from any Robinsons Mall outlet, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter or purchase P100 worth (single receipt) of food and a Coke drink from any Robinsons Food Court outlet for a raffle coupon. Call 632-7672 or 633-7641 to -90 local 175 or 176.

CORY Quirino

Sequel to Cory Quirino's bestseller to be launched

BEAUTY and wellness exponent Cory Quirino will launch her book, "Forever Young" (Anvil Publishing, a sequel to her best-selling book of the same title), May 11 and 12 at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.

Open to the public and free of charge, activities include aerobics fun match, classes in yoga and Pilates, pranic healing orientation, beauty and health make-overs, facials and massages, healthy heart cooking demo, photo ops with the Philippine Body Building Association, Latin dance workout, body fat analysis, fitness profile and calcium bone density testing, and dream analysis workshop.

Alma Concepcion, Plinky Recto, Poncy Quirino, the Shark PBA champs, Becky Garcia and the national Latin American Dance champs led by Belinda Adora will make special appearances.

Noted speakers include Dr. Joel Mendez on the subject of weight loss and management, Dr. Victor Vesuña on hormone health, Robert Barranda of Slimmers World International on "How to Have a Great Body" and Tito de Jesus on "Understanding Your Dreams."

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Phillips integrates gadgetry with the upwardly mobile lifestyle

Marriage of electronics and fashion

By Rowena C. Burgos

EVERY morning, most of us have a hard time deciding what to wear based on our planned activities for the day. When we go out the door, we have to think what items to take with us. Aside from books, papers and keys, most of us take electronic equipment such as a mobile phone, notebook computer, personal organizer and audio player. However, each one of these has to be stored in a pocket or briefcase, and switched on before we can use it.

But wouldn't it be nice if they were always on hand, and automatically switched on the instant we need them? So Philips thought of making all our communications, information and entertainment equipment an integral part of our clothing.

In a two-day media conference at the Royal Orchid Sheraton in Bangkok, Thailand, Philips Consumer Electronics presented wearable electronics. Philips teamed up with Nike, designer and manufacturer of athletic footwear, apparel and equipment, "to create a new market for apparel and equipment that combine communications, connectivity and information to motivate athletic activity."

"As people become increasingly mobile, they will want their electronic environment to accompany them wherever they go. And as electronics become more and more part of our daily lives, they will usher in a new era of creativity in design and personal expression. One of the first examples of this new era will be found in what we wear," said Guy Demuynck, CEO of Philips Consumer Electronics.

For eight years now, Philips Design and Philips Research have been exploring a number of ideas to integrate digital and electronic technologies into textiles.

For Philips, this implies much more than simply making special pockets in shirts for the mobile phone, or a clip on the belt for the CD player. Real integration is more than that. It is having speakers in the hood of a jacket, a microphone integrated into the collar, a keyboard and/or a display integrated into the sleeve, with all the connections between them concealed in the jacket's fabric.

Beyond portable

Just like the carriage clock of 300 years ago that subsequently became a pocket watch and then a wristwatch, personal electronic devices will become items that can be worn as clothing, jewelry and accessories. Wearable electronics is more than adapting electronic devices to a lifestyle and making them mobile. The real challenge is to integrate them into fashionable clothes that people feel good in and want to wear.

"We want applications that stay with you wherever you go, always switched on and working for you, yet courteous enough not to disturb you at inopportune times," said Frans van Houten, Philips executive vice president for the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa.

Through a fashion presentation, the media were given a sneak preview of some of the latest results, which have been developed by a multidisciplinary team, consisting of fashion designers, interaction and multimedia designers, technologists and scientists, at Philips Research laboratories in Redhill, England. They address the needs of various social groups such as business professionals, kids and youth and performance sports enthusiasts.

Nomadic working. For the businessman, the wearable jacket has a microphone incorporated in its collar. An earpiece, like a piece of jewelry tucked into his ear, and a display and a personal digital assistant are in his sleeve: the keypad is embroidered. The user can select equipment for the day ahead and fit them discretely into the garment he has decided to wear.

Ski jacket. You can take this to the extreme on the slopes—an outfit with embedded ski passes, radio links, GPS satellite positioning, warning displays, temperature sensors and heating materials. If the integrated thermometer detects body temperature that is too cold, the fabric heats up automatically.

Queen of clubs. This is an outfit for the girl who's really into clubbing. In any club that has installed the right equipment, the sensors hidden in her clothes will affect the lights and beat of the music close to where she's dancing.

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It will allow her to create her own "sensory ambience." And so that she can make contact with other people across the dance floor, she can pair this with pageable pants—yes, there's a pager in there!

Feels good. When you come home tired after a day of stressful activities, and you just want to relax, simply put on a massage kimono with a conductive embroidered spine at the back, which disperses an electrostatic charge. It gives a soothing massage. You can even specify the level of relaxation you want to achieve.

Streetwear. An audio jacket which allows you to download music into the digital audio player with an easy jack-plug that interfaces with audio controls. Load the flash ram cards by opening a Velcro flap. Headphones are located in the hood.

These are just a few of the wearable electronic products that Philips and Nike have envisaged will be possible within five to 10 years.

Wear and care

Most of the wearable concepts make use of what is known as a personal area network (PAN). PAN provides the backbone for smart clothes. It allows the transport of data, power and control signals within the user's personal space. Modular devices with functions shared by different applications, such as mobile phones or MP3 players, can be hooked up to the PAN. A single display, for example, can be used to show information about a phone call and about the track you're listening to. Intelligent software ensures that the devices cooperate in a natural way—switching the function from the MP3 player to the phone mode when a call arrives, for instance.

The textiles used are electrically conductive, but also soft and warm to the touch.

Considerable progress has been made in Philips' mobile devices so they will still work when used during rainy days. The company makes sure that a substantial part of the integrated wiring, peripherals and connectors must be able to withstand washing or other forms of garment care.

Philips displays

Aside from wearable electronics, Philips also introduced its latest technology called the Pixel Plus that brings high definition-like picture characteristics: extremely clear and natural-looking detail. Such technology was demonstrated through its new models of the award-winning Flat TV set.

With the convergence of television and computers, Philips moves ahead with its LCD computer monitor, which allows users to work on their PC while watching TV in a separate window.

Since displays lead to storage, Philips has come up with the DVDR890 recorder, which helps you capture birthday celebrations, vacations and your favorite TV shows on a DVD+RW or DVD+R disc, and play them back on any DVD player. Picture quality is razor sharp and the disc can hold up to six hours of video material.

The Streamium MC-i200 micro system uses broadband Internet access, which allows consumers to choose their online music, store them in a secure online jukebox, which are then streamed into the system.

Nothing symbolizes connectivity like the mobile revolution. So Philips has introduced GSM Fisio mobile phones, which combine easy operation, smart design with advanced GPRS for mobile Internet access. The Fisio 820, for example, has a large, full color LCD display, Bluetooth connectivity, advanced GPRS and the ability to receive and store color photographs and graphics.

Just as mobile technology has freed consumers from telephone wires, Philips has found a way to free computer users from wires attached to their monitors through its detachable monitors. These monitors are lightweight, flexible, can deliver Internet access, entertainment and other information anywhere in a wireless, networked home.

"In consumer electronics, we want to enhance people's lives by making their leisure time more enjoyable, and their work environment more pleasant and efficient. We believe that the consumer is interested in more than just boxes of components or bits of digital information. So we're here to improve the lives of people around the world. Or as we like to say, 'Let's make things better,' " says Guy Demuynck.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPS and Nike create a new line of MP3 portable audio players that include an armband and headphones.

GUY Demuynck, left, Philips Consumer Electronics' CEO, and Frans Van Houten, Philips executive vice president for Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa

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FISH and Things of Bernice Palanca Go and Anna Joaquin features aquatic-inspired items.

Little shops, great values

TABU of Amanda Griffin and Isabel Engwa offers imported swimwear and beach accessories.

Photos by Betoy Johnson

LIFESTYLES at Greenbelt Shopping Plaza houses little shops that sell what owner Maryjo Feraren describes as "classics with an edge."

Cache and Lakshmi by Dita Sandico-Ong, Living Culture by Grace Nono, CX Clothes Express, Novecento by Jon and Merle Tiongson, Fluff and DeTour by Tess Manimtim-Valdes have pride of place here, along with Novelty Fountains by architect Nestor Jardeleza, Fish and Things by Bernice Palanca Go and Anna Joaquin and Chameleon by Riza Araneta and Itsy Macasaet.

Seductive swimwear and cool beach accessories by Amanda Griffin and Isabel Engwa at Tabu, funky clothes by Pit Mercado at Brand F and trendy separates by Anna Cruz at Flirt give more than a passing chance to these young designers.

MARYJO Feraren, owner of Lifestyles in Greenbelt Shopping Plaza

Visitors will be surprised to see that the small area of 220 sq m designed by Boni Juan has12 tenants. "I believe in variety and I want to reach a big market," says Feraren, who claims to have pioneered the mall concept of small stalls selling various items.

Catering to working men and women who understand that one doesn't have to spend a fortune to look like a million, Lifestyles showcases fabulous finds at affordable prices.

"At this shop, ethnic ensembles are blended with contemporary pieces to come up with more colloquial, young and free-spirited fashion," Feraren says. "By intelligently mixing and matching ethnic with contemporary separates, one can come up with pleasing combinations."

All occasions and budgets

Feraren's house of style showcases the latest fashion for every taste, occasion and budget. Visitors will leave the store fully prepared for any fashion season, whether they are looking for stylish selections to update an existing wardrobe or shopping for a complete wardrobe overhaul.

Being fashionable is also about fine-tuning your look with few well-chosen details so Lifestyles also offers jewelry pieces, shawls, scarves, ties, belts and bags.

Certainly when Feraren looks into the shop's crystal ball, she recognizes the opportunity and potential to expand even further, albeit carefully. She is concentrating on building the store into "a complete lifestyle."

"Lifestyles offers everything from clothing to accessories. Ultimately, we see ourselves offering shoes, foot spa and probably home furnishings. ***Rowena C. Burgos***

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

LIVING Culture of Grace Nono boasts of ethnic fashion.

BRAND F of Pit Mercado showcases clothes for funky guys and gals.

DETOUR of Tess Manimtim-Valdes: Modern punk, gypsy chic, new romance and crayon brights

Greenbelt redefines malling experience

From page E1

ly. The second level has a walk-in system connecting Greenbelt 2, 3 and 4. Parking areas have themes like *gumamela*, banana leaves and yellow bells so visitors don't get lost. Vehicles won't be caught in a traffic jam going from one building to another.

Ayala Land Inc., the developer of Glorietta and Alabang Town Center, creates a leisure environment that revolves around a park—plenty of greenery and open space, where people can unwind after work or relax with families and friends. Sculptures will also be displayed around the area.

Greenbelt 2 will have 16 fine-dining restaurants on the ground floor; a row of dining booths on the second level overlooking a mini-courtyard where one can dine al fresco; parking areas at the basement, second and third levels; and 28 residential units at the fourth level, which will be ready for occupancy by the third quarter of this year.

Greenbelt 3 is called the urban retail entertainment center. "Greenbelt 3 will be a combination of retail, food and entertainment," says Myrna Fernandez of Ayala Land Inc.'s commercial centers group.

WINE and dine while enjoying the view of Greenbelt's 2.8-hectare park.

Shopper's paradise

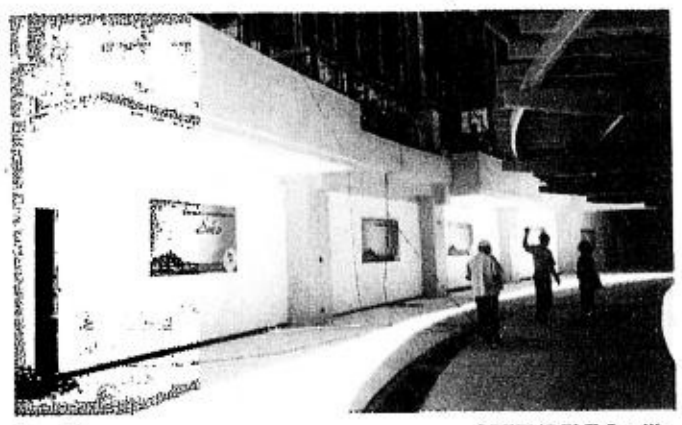
If your motto is "Shop till you drop," prepare to do just that. More than 70 specialty and lifestyle shops will fill the charming Greenbelt mall. They will offer fashion, furnishings, crafts, electronics and just about everything else.

Excellent service is promised, but prices are also expected to be irresistible.

"Most of the stores here will not be found in other malls. We've tapped retailers that are not in malls and other established stores that will offer new concepts. But they're not necessarily high-end stores. The items to be sold will be affordable," adds Fernandez.

Firma by Ricky Toledo will have its first mall outlet at Greenbelt 3 under the name Juno. Anton Barretto, who has a candle store at Glorietta, will have a candle and accessories shop called Old Pineapple, according to Tomeldan.

A WALK-IN system connects Greenbelt 2 (left) to Greenbelt 3.



GREENBELT 3 will have six cinemas, casual restaurants and resto bars.

Other lifestyle shops are upscale names like Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren, Waipai (European women's store) and Celio (European men's store). Specialty shops include Technomarine, Soumak Bed n' Beddings and Linens by Edi Tekeli.

Fernandez says each specialty shop, which is 30 sq m in size, will showcase 15 small stores each specializing in a particular item.

New kind of entertainment

If it's entertainment you're after, you'll also find it within the mall. Entertainment is a major part of the new trend in retailing.

"Entertainment will definitely not consist of your usual mall shows. Think jazz quartet in the mini-courtyard, live performances in one of the hip bars or even just the relaxing sound of a waterfall and fountain," Fernandez says.

Greenbelt 3 will be buzzing day and night, offering fun at Timezone, films in its six movie theaters, shows and concerts at Greenbelt 3 and dining at Greenbelt 2 and 3.

Timezone features unique interactive games and simulators. Its R360 is a driving experience that puts fans behind the wheel of a simulated jet fighter.

Greenbelt 3's cinemas have all-digital sound systems, luxurious seats with cup holders and carpeted aisles. It will also have myCinema, a 50-seater theater available for private functions. "Aside from their (theaters) state-of-the-art technology, they also have the same standard stadium seating as the cinemas in the United States. Viewers who [miss the start of a] particular show will not be allowed to enter," explains Catherine Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager of Ayala Land Inc.'s commercial centers group.

Greenbelt 2 features fine-dining restaurants like Bizu, Cena, Dozom, Gloria Maris, Hola!, Magnum, Nuvo, Pepato, Restaurant 12, Segafredo Espresso, Soleil, Sugi and Uva.

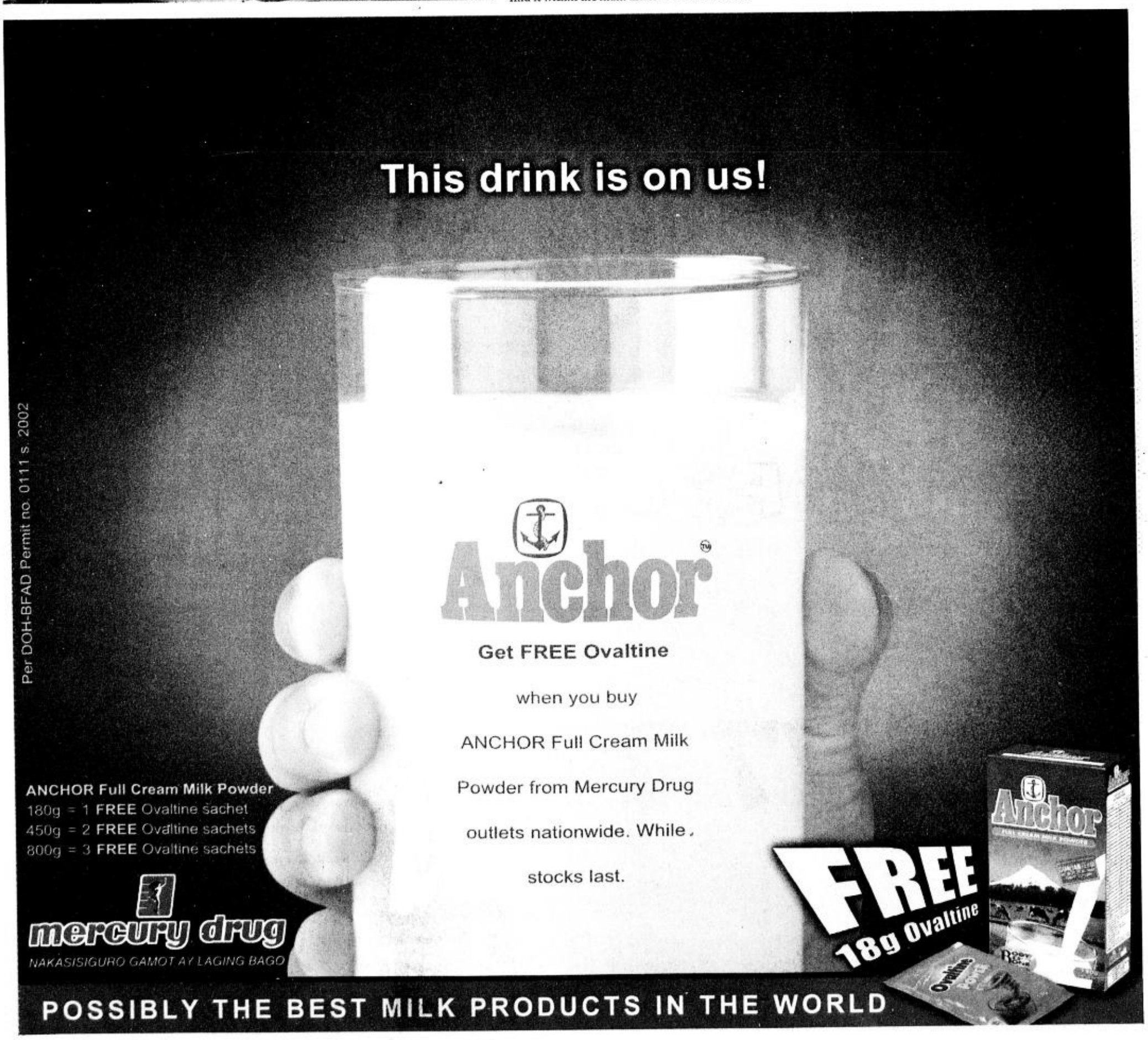
Greenbelt 3, on the other hand, offers casual restos such as Big Buddha by the Superbowl of China Group, Haiku by Archie Castillo of Sakura, Hue-Vibrantly Vietnamese, Fez by Dixie Mabanta, Sentro 1771 by Ricky Gutierrez and Bubba Gump. A food court will have 11 booths.

Resto bars include Vodka Lounge, Kid Creole-New Orleans bar, Merck Jazz Station and Bistro, Tavern on the Square, Opium bar by Tim Yap and Famous dessert bar.

Wine and dine while enjoying the view of lush vegetation in Greenbelt's 2.8-ha park that includes 400 trees and several plant varieties. "The area of the existing church will be developed. We'll put a lot of lotus plants around it. There'll be two bridges and between them a pond with fish [that you] can feed. Exotic plants and orchids will also be on display. A plaza will be built in the park where fun activities will be held," says Cristina Comia, project director, Ayala Land Inc.'s commercial centers group construction management.

Greenbelt 3 will open on May 16 and Greenbelt 2 restaurants on May 17. Some shops and restaurants will open before the formal opening.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



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butterflyz	alicia keys	N butterf
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Living la vie boheme in Paris

THE NEWS about the recent death of a prominent actor in the prime of his youth and at the height of his career reached me while I was sitting in a café in Paris, having pre-dinner drinks with some friends, one of whom had stumbled on the news on the Web. The conversation took a somewhat convoluted term as we attempted to explain to the French and Americans at the table what he had died of. "It's a Filipino thing," we told them. "You know how in the west you have Sudden Infant Death Syndrome? It's the same thing, except it happens to adults, if they go to bed immediately after a big meal."

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

The French sipped at their Kir and contemplated Sudden Adult Death Syndrome, typically giving it a philosophical bent ("Does not it intensify one's sense of mortality, that one might die suddenly, of no cause at all?"), but seemed in general somewhat skeptical of the whole idea. I didn't argue with much vehemence (it's almost as pointless to argue with a Frenchman as it is with an Indian), because I was somewhat skeptical as well.

My interest in the mysterious death of a celebrity in the entertainment and pearl-shake industries only goes so far. I only bring it up because my brief absence appears to have given rise to some similarly unlikely speculation. A spell in a psychiatric ward, drug rehabilitation center, or, dear me I hope not, but perhaps a dieting spa? Perhaps I was being subjected to water torture by an extremist socialist group in the University of the Philippines, incarcerated in one of those unmarked rooms in the labyrinthine bowels of the Faculty Center? Alas! Strop Ockham's Razor and slash away: after too much time spent on spreadsheets, paperwork, inscrutable forms from the BIR, I had had enough. I closed down operations on the restaurant and went on vacation. Not one of those short side-trips where one forgets the grind of daily work, but still somehow remember that you have forgotten it (makes sense, yes?); I not only forgot my life in Manila, and then took the further step of forgetting that I had forgotten it.

Long walks

I had no firm, discernible objectives in mind, aside from a vague resolution to finally get around to learning the subjunctive and conditional tenses in French. It was as much of a surprise to me as it was to the few friends I kept contact with and those I met in Paris. I took long, solitary walks, wearing down the soles of my shoes until the treads in the rubber faded and disappeared. I bought books and devoured them with the ease and hunger of a student. I immersed myself in fields that were

LIVING/ p.F3

Park offers enticing treats to mark its 7th anniversary

ENCHANTED Kingdom marks its 7th anniversary from April 27 to May 5 by offering several enticing treats to the whole family.

On May 4, it holds the 7th Fireworks Competition featuring seven finalists and promising to be more spectacular than previous ones.

The park is also holding the first-ever Mardi Gras Festival, with in-house talents performing dance numbers dressed in colorful costumes. Authentic and colorful Dragon and Lion Dances, believe to bring good luck, will be presented. Guests will experience "Macau: City of Culture" with live demonstrations of various arts and crafts by artisans from Macau.

A Lucky Visitor of the Day will be chosen and get to enjoy Fast Passes for all the rides with up to six companions, P700 in Wizard Money, plus a souvenir photo with the Wizard and Princess Viktoria.

On May 1, The Enterprise, one of EK's most popular rides, returns to make the trip to EK even more thrilling for the whole family.

Talented American magician Jeff Simon does a series of magic shows at the park's Launch Pad. Simon, 27, one of the youngest magicians in Las Vegas, will have shows at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., April 28; 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., May 4; and 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., May 5.

Tickets to the shows are available at the Makati Sales Office or the park's front gate at P75. People who will buy their tickets before the show date can avail of an exciting scheme. Call 699-2345.

Other magical events to look forward to during include the colorful Flores de Mayo called "Rosas ng Sta. Rosa", a dwTM concert, and, for the romantic, the "kiss-for-luck" and request and dedication booths at the Park.

The park has several anniversary promotional offerings, such as the EK Bundle (a value-for-money gift suggestion that comes in a colorful EK envelope for a discounted price of P500 containing one EK Ride-All ticket and P150 Wizard Money), the Wizard Money Promo (extended until June 23, simply pay an entrance fee of P200 and get back the same value in Wizard Money that can be used to buy admission tickets, food, drinks, souvenir items, game stubs or tokens inside the park), and the Fridays Off! Promo (a summer offering for all government employees every Friday until May 31 offering a special ride-all ticket at P200 instead of the regular P320 upon presentation of a valid office ID).

Enchanted Kingdom is open 2-10 p.m., Wednesdays to Fridays, and 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It will be closed on April 29 but will be open May 1. The park will also be closed May 18 and 25 for an exclusive corporate booking. Regular weekend and holiday/weekday admission rates are P400/320 (Ride-All); P250/P200 (Supersaver) and P100 (EK Special). Tickets are also available at all Ticketworld outlets. Call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati office) or 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa).

JEFF Simon presents his world of magic at Enchanted Kingdom on April 28, May 4 and 5.

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Playtime is bonding time for mother and daughter

"IT'S fun playing with your own kids!" exclaims soap star, model, host and mother Angel Jacob while on the nth machine. She and daughter Arielle are having fun at the newly opened Timezone branch at Greenhills Shopping Center, the most popular family entertainment center in the country.

With the wide variety of simulators and machines at their disposal at Timezone, mother and daughter literally had their hands full. Angel and Arielle, who used to go to the Glorietta branch, were happy to discover their favorite games were also at the Greenhills outlet. The two usually used their Powercards for the Wani Wani Panic whacker, a game that aimed to improve eye speed and vigilance and to keep you calm when crocodiles appear. With the Storm Stopper, you have to quickly press the button once you capture the light before the arches to win lots of tickets. The sporty mother and daughter also to try their hands at the popular Air Hockey game and shoot three-pointers at the Slam N Jam and Mini Dunxx basketball games.

Mother and daughter love playing together since, according to Angel, they enjoy the bonding during playtime. Angel also likes teaching her child. She tells her that playing isn't just a time for fun but also a time to think.

"It's good that here, I can explain to her that in life, it is not always winning the game that counts. I explain to her not only the mechanics of the game but also the reason why sometimes we lose, and sometimes we win. This is also a time for me to be young again 'cause I have to explain to her these things at her level," Angel said. "I also get to play."

And you never leave empty-handed at Timezone, as Angel points out. "Even with one ticket you could get a prize. That's why people keep coming back. The more tickets you have, the more exciting prizes you can claim at the prize area."

Since Arielle happily goes home with loads of prizes, what she usually does is share them with her relatives, especially her grandmother. Even if mother and daughter spend more than P500 to have fun at Timezone, they feel that the quality time they spend together and the enjoyment they get is worth it.

Timezone, which originated in Australia, is the first to introduce the Powercard system. Powercards can be bought at a reasonable price of P25, but it can be loaded with any amount you want and you can swipe it in a machine to play the game you want. Timezone also offers value-for-money Powercard packs that will enable you to get your Powercard for free. Once you're through with the Powercard and used up all the credits, you can reload it again and try to master your favorite games.

Timezone Family Entertainment Centers are located at Glorietta 2, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt Cinemas, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Starmall, Metro Point Mall (Edsa-Taft), Greenhills Shopping Center. Timezone's 10th branch is under construction at the new Greenbelt Mall and is expected to open in May.

ANGEL Jacob and daughter Arielle try to capture more prizes at Timezone's Happy Gyro.

Living la vie boheme in Paris

From page F1

wildly outside my realm: for years, people had been telling me that I had no visual sense (it began when my grade school art teacher gave the rest of the class crayons and paint, but put me and a few others in a special class where we were taught how to shine boots and make brooms from palm fronds); I bought an easel, canvas and some paints, and began to draw patterns and shapes I had seen in my dreams. A cheap enlarger and some plastic trays and chemicals, and I was soon making my own photographic prints. There was a cheese shop just a few doors from the entrance to my apartment building, and my ambition was to try a different cheese every day, working from left to right (a scheme that was somewhat derailed when the proprietor reorganized his display with the coming of spring).

When people asked where I was living in Paris, I told them I was living in the Marais, one of the few parts of Paris which escaped the new urban landscape created by Haussmann (the best example is the area near the Opera, with long, wide boulevards which were difficult to barricade and which provided snipers a clean line of fire): narrow, twisting alleyways, lined with buildings in varying styles, and dotted with unexpected pockets of greenery and the splendor of the Place des Vosges. This is a fairly accurate description in architectural terms, but it leaves out what the Marais is most known for today: it's the quarter of the Jews and homosexuals.

Those who go to Paris expecting to sit in a café with a beret, dress in black, and think Deep Thoughts are most likely to head to St.-Germain-des-Pres; this was, after all, where Sartre and Beauvoir held court, at Les Deux Magots and the Café de Flore. Now these cafés serve the most expensive coffee in Paris, where the waiters seem to have watched too many American films and decided to live up to their stereotype as rude, condescending and possessed with an inability to comprehend both English and French. The streets are full of boutiques of expensive brand names, and the only glimmer of the literary and artistic vibrancy of the area is the little bookstore between the two cafés, a very highbrow bookstore called La Hune. It's rather like Soho and the cliché of the "artist's loft"; this area of New York is now prime real estate, and all the artists (who were there in the first place because the rent was low) have moved on elsewhere, to the East Village, Alphabet City, even some parts of Brooklyn.

Eccentricities

In Paris, they've moved to the Marais. One of the great things about being abroad is that you can indulge in eccentricities (I would choose to adopt a new one every day: a limp, a Romanian accent, narcolepsy, autism, deafness, etc.) and wear whatever you want. So my outfit consisted of a trench coat, a Briggs umbrella, a bowler hat and a pipe. I walked down the street and met a man with a silk top hat and three dogs, an ancient crone of indeterminate gender who walked about with enormous round sunglasses with lenses that he flipped upward when talking to someone; and a tall man with a body builder's frame in a scarlet fur coat that came down to his ankles: I blended right in. (It was obvious, I decided, that I needed to accessorize.)

There was a fireplace, where we burned wood for warmth. One of the disadvantages, I mused, of using a computer to write was that one could no longer heave a manuscript dramatically onto the fire: "This is worthless, let us burn it!" My roommate, though, taught me the very effective trick of drizzling turpentine on the toilet seat and setting it alight, so that when the flames died down, it was warm and cozy.

Nevertheless, strangely absent from all this was the desire for company or conversation. I began to wonder if I was sliding into solipsism; or perhaps in reading so many books I was substituting them for people; I was having conversations with ghosts, something I thought only Tony Perez could do.

My roommate and I found that we had begun to take on different trajectories: he spoke of how much in love he was with his girlfriend; of how electronica was the cutting-edge of music; of the coolest clubs in Paris and New York. It didn't seem an apt response to tell him that I had spent the day walking about with mismatched socks and a bowler hat, with a fake Romanian accent, visiting the great wine cellars of the city to stare in awe at the yellowed bottles of Chateau d'Yquem, or vintage port that predated the war.

One of the best things about being abroad is that you can indulge in eccentricities

Question of values

It was a question, perhaps, of values: not in the sense of moral virtues, but in the more etymological sense of what one regarded as important. He was into girls, flirtations and relationships, ambitions as a writer and a media mogul, hedonism; his idea of happiness was to cruise the countryside with a beautiful girl beside him, speeding up with the top down. I liked to sit in the silent clatter of an underground carriage in the Metro, reading and recognizing Flaubert over the shoulder of the man behind me, or staring at the grande dame across from me and wondering what her eyes, now covered with a translucence of glaucoma, had seen. And directly in front of her: a tall beautiful girl, perhaps a model, dressed down in jeans and sneakers, but still unable to avoid the furtive glances from the grizzled accordionist as he rattled his cup for change.

For a single brief moment their eyes met and their gazes locked before they both turn away. I felt as though I had been witness to an interlocution, a confession, admonition; what had it been, what had taken place between the ancient woman who had no doubt been beautiful once, and the young girl who knew nothing but the banalities of childhood and the tenuous wisdom of adolescence? It was weeks later, when I had almost forgotten the incident; when the same glance of recognition took place, in the corridors of the Chatelet station; and one of the interlocutors was me. The cliché is always that of finding oneself in Paris; true to form, I managed to do the opposite. What were the values, the systems of belief that held me together and gave me form (as opposed to being an oozing blob of miasma)? And since I did not know, would I take on the consistency of a Vacherin or Epoisse?

That night, I made certain I selected one of the harder cheeses to try. There is something unseemly about having one's cheese mirror the state of one's soul. I toasted some sourdough bread on the fire, took a swig of cheap red wine, and started a fresh canvas. And they said that la vie boheme was dead.

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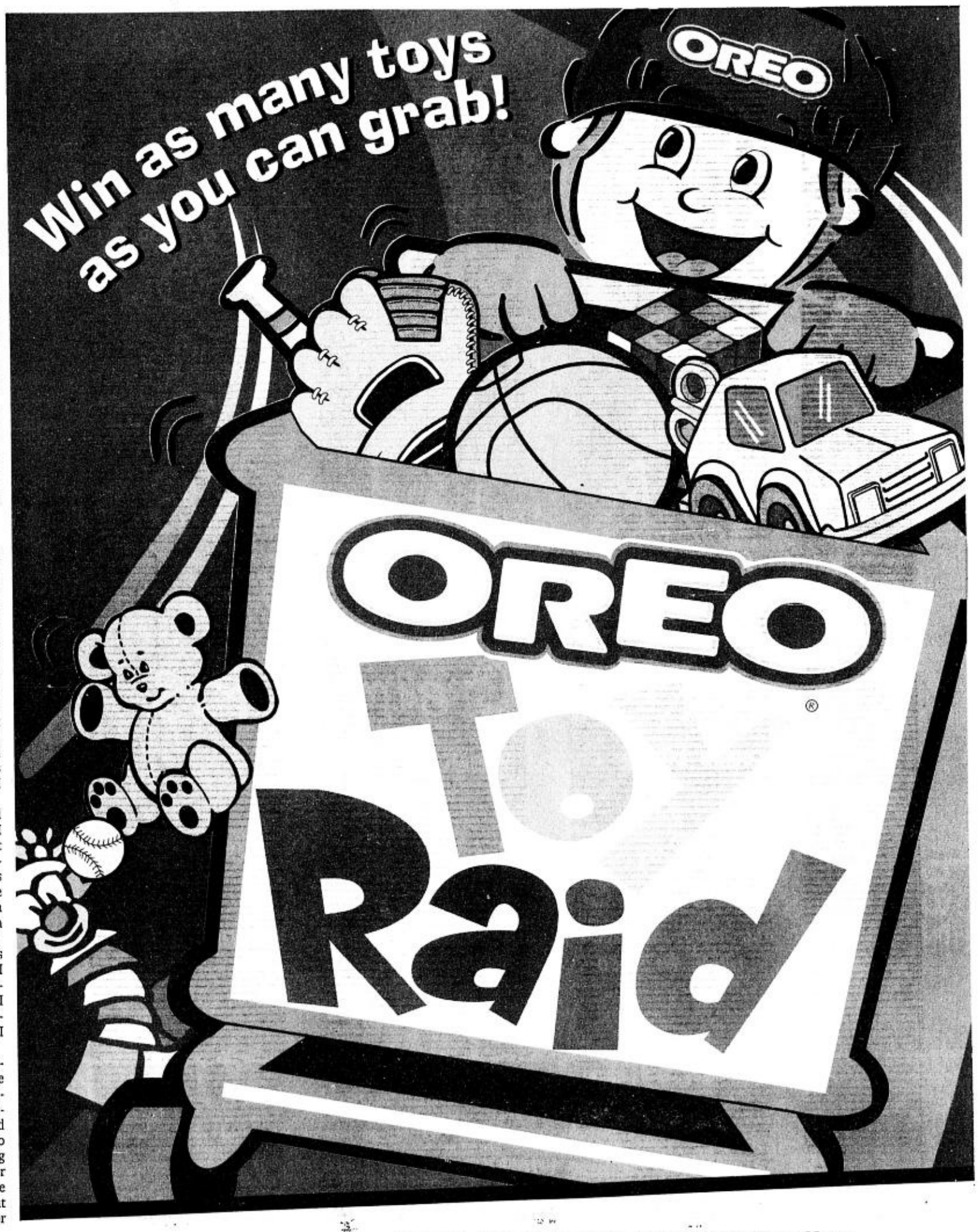

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(1) pack OREO Double Stuf 170g
* Participants residing in GMA and Luzon can send their entries to P.O. Box # 4358 Makati Central Post Office 1283 Makati City. Residents of Visayas and Mindanao can send their entries to Mandaue Central Post Office P.O Box # 71. Participants may also drop their entries in OREO Toy Raid drop boxes in leading supermarkets and Toy Kingdom outlets nationwide.
* The more entries you send, the more chances to win!

MECHANICS :

MINI TOY RAIDS :

A preliminary draw will be held on May 17, 2002 where six (6) winners (3 from GMA/ Luzon and 3 from Visayas/Mindanao) will win a mini toy raid to be held at the activity center of SM Megamall Atrium on May 26, 2002.

* A set shall be constructed to replicate the shelves of a toy store.
* Each winner shall be allowed sixty (60) seconds to grab as many toys as he/she can from the OREO Toy Raid set.
* At the end of 60 seconds, the child automatically wins all the toys in his OREO cart. Hand carried toys shall not be included in the final count.
* The guardian may accompany the child but is not allowed to assist in the grabbing of toys.
* If the winner does not reside near Metro Manila, Nabisco shall provide airfare and one (1) day lodging for the winning child and one (1) guardian.
* Aside from the Mini-Toy raids the following prizes are also at stake in the preliminary draw: Five (5) Sony Playstation 2, Twenty-five (25) Toy Kingdom Gift cheques (P5,000 each).

GRAND TOY RAIDS :

Grand draw will be held on July 5, 2002 where two (2) winners will win a 2-minute Toy Raid in TOYS "R" US Hong Kong for the child and P 100,000 pocket money for the guardian who sent the winning entry. Grand Toy Raid shall be held on July 19, 2002 in TOYS "R" US Hong Kong (Ocean Terminal).

* All entries will be included in the Grand Draw.
* Nabisco shall provide airfare and three (3) days, two (2) nights lodging in Hong Kong for each child and one (1) guardian. The child & his/her guardian must have valid passports to qualify.
* The child shall be given an OREO cart to carry all the toys he/she collects. At the end of 2 minutes, the child automatically wins all toys in his cart. Hand-carried toys shall not be included in the final count.
* The guardian may accompany the child but is not allowed to assist in the grabbing of toys.
* All Toy Raid winners will be pre-informed of the dates of the Toy Raids. In the event that the winners are unable to attend the Toy Raids in person, the prize will be forfeited and another winner will be drawn.
* Nabisco, in cooperation with Toys "R" Us, has the right to exclude certain items in the store from the Toy Raid.
* Aside from the Grand Toy Raids the following prizes are also at stake in the grand draw: Five (5) Sony Playstation 2, Twenty-five (25) Toy Kingdom Gift cheques (P5,000 each)
* Consolation prizes must be claimed at Nabisco Philippines office at 8378 Dr. A. Santos Avenue, 1700 Paranaque City on or before August 28, 2002. If the winner does not live in GMA, the prizes will be shipped to them at the cost of Nabisco.
* None of the prizes are convertible to cash.
* All winners shall be drawn in the presence of a BFAD representative.

Promo will run from April 19-June 28, 2002. All entries must be submitted on or before June 28, 2002 to qualify for the Grand Draw.

Don't be left behind! Send your entries now!

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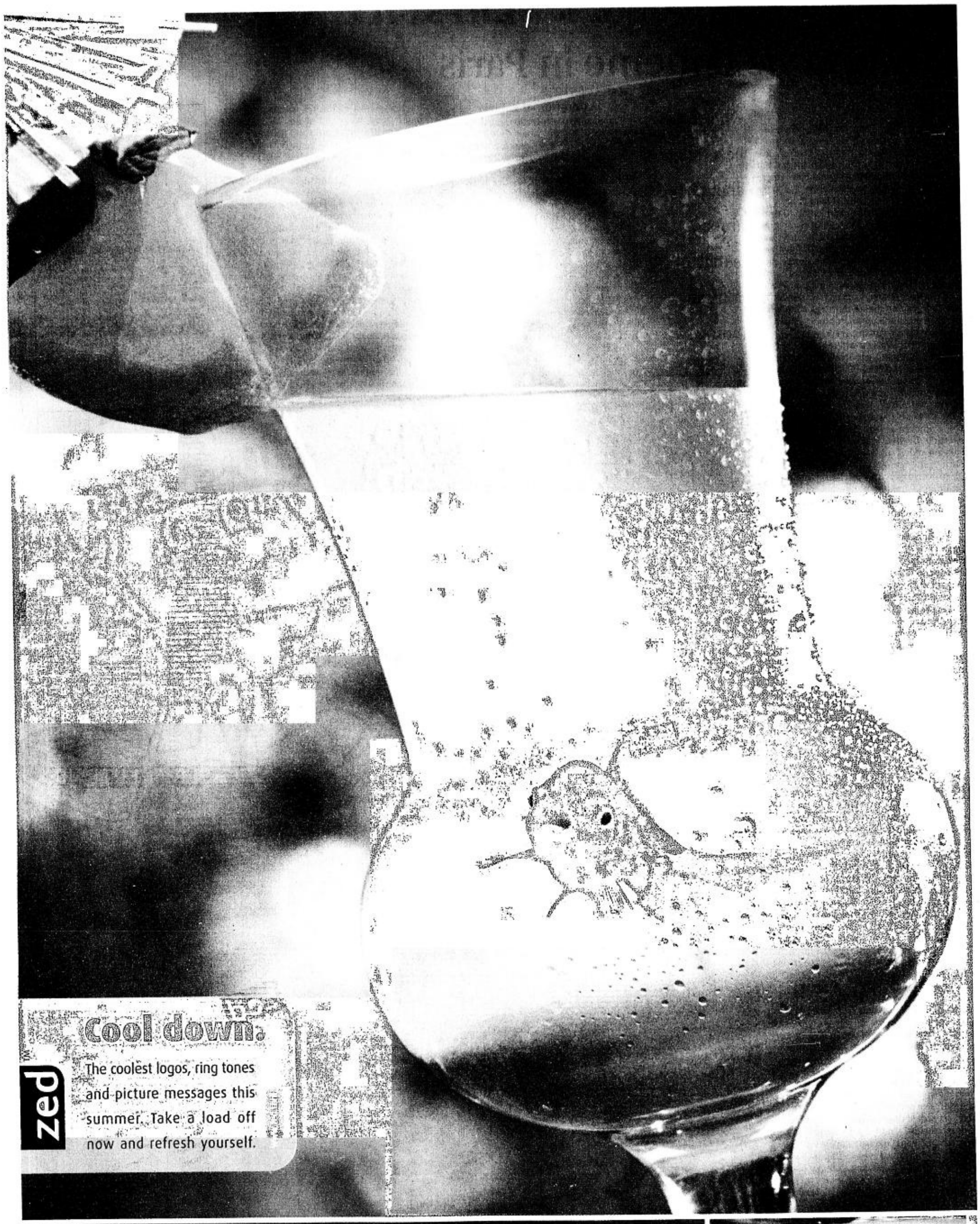
Summer street fair in Libis

BAZAAR organizer and events specialist Menchie Mabanta presents "Summer Caper," a street fair at The Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, with a group of 32 vendors.

The street fair, presented with ERA Commercial Services Group, opened April 22 and ends May 7. The event will showcase must-haves for summer—light and airy clothes, sexy swimsuits, large tote bags, strappy sandals, sports shoes and bags, batik items, bath and body products, caps and bandannas, eyewear, cotton T-shirts and outfits for kids and adults, in-season décor and other house ware and even novelty and gift items.

The bazaar opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 12 midnight Sunday to Thursday and 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 671-2497/2493 or (0917) 526-4812.



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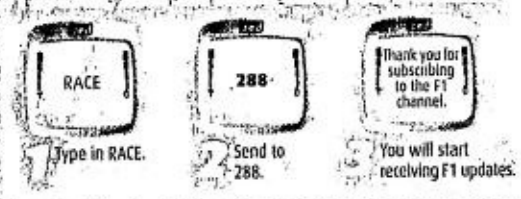

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Weddings Engagements

G1

Thanks for the memories

Designer Rajo Laurel picks the unforgettable ones among the many brides he has dressed up in his almost 10 years in the fashion business

By Cathy Babao Guballa

IN A QUIET street, a stone's throw from Rockwell, Rajo Laurel's shop continually hums with nuptial-related activities. On the average, Laurel designs and executes bridal ensembles for six weddings a month.

"During the peak period from November to March we sometimes even do 12 a month," he adds.

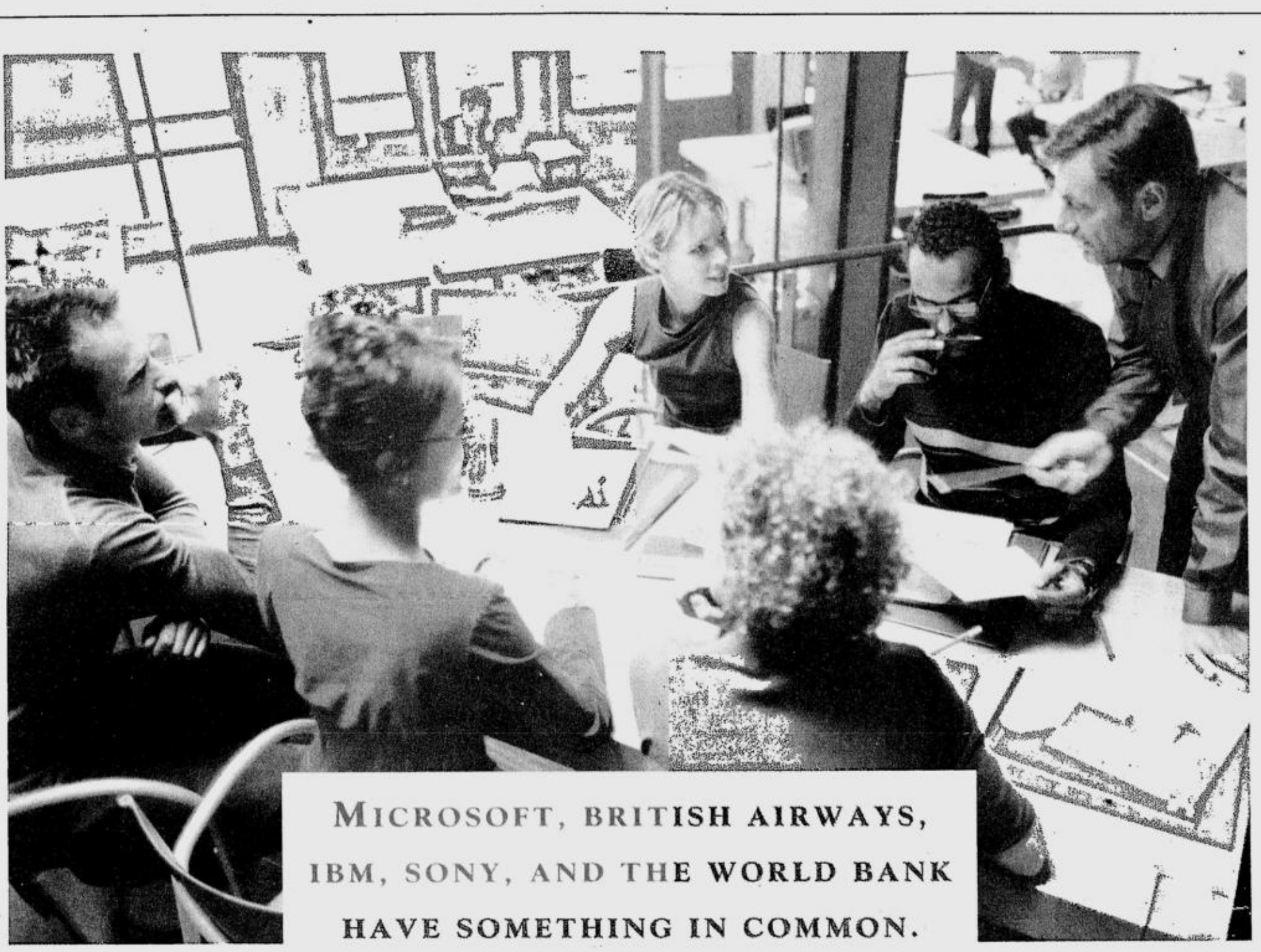
One bright morning, he goes through dozens of huge photo albums that he has lovingly put together. "I have a photograph of each and every wedding I've done," he smiles.

Lifestyle asks Laurel to pick the seven most memorable weddings out of the hundreds he has done from the time he designed his first wedding ensemble back in 1993.

Climent-Banzon

Yvonne Banzon and Tonico Climent tied the knot at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park in June 1993. "This was my very first wedding and I did it three months before I graduated from college," Laurel recalls. "Yvonne was the type of bride who relied on

THANKS/ p.G6



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Pretty in lilac

WITH HER proud parents, Ely, Mimi and brother Francis

OLIVIA E. Bayanin, only daughter of real estate executive **Ely Bayanin** and his wife **Mimi**, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at the Rigodon Ballroom 1 of the Manila Peninsula.

Olivia's friends from the University of Asia & the Pacific and De La Salle University danced the traditional *cotillion de honor*. La Salle Zobel Ayala Alabang and some movers and shakers of the real estate industry attended the affair.

Larry Espinosa created Olivia's gowns. One featured a lilac tube corset with bouffant skirt, beaded with bugle beads and Swarovski stones.

OLIVIA

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

MERCADO-TIQUE

Sherwin G. Mercado, son of **Elizardo D. Mercado** and the late **Julieta G. Mercado**, married **Jazel P. Tique**, daughter of the late **Brigido M. Tique** and **Juana P. Tique**, yesterday at the Our Lady of Remedies Chapel, Clark Airfield, Pampanga. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Resort, Clark Airfield.

The bride wore a strapless A-line gown in ivory embellished with beadwork, embroidered rosettes and leaf patterns, designed and executed by Demetrio's of USA. Cecil Carreon and Co. of Angeles City coordinated the affair.

GEBALA-ABILGOS

Robert M. Gebala, son of **James** and **Angelita Gebala**, will wed **Marah Grace E. Abilgos**, daughter of lawyer **Oscar** and **Evelina Abilgos**, on May 11 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will follow at The Manila Hotel. **Patis Tesoro** designed the bridal gown while **Paul Cabral** created the groom's ensemble.

SANTE-KANITENG

Januarius Sante, son of Dr. **Teofilo** and **Gaudencia Sante**, will wed **Shirley Kaniteng**, daughter of engineer **Norman** and **Cristeta Kaniteng**, on May 8 at the Baguio Cathedral, Upper Session Road, Baguio City. Reception will be held at Venus Parkview Hotel, 19 Kisad Road, Baguio City.

ABENIR-ESPENIDA

Jonathan A. Abenir, son of **Jose Jr.** and **Ruby Abenir**, will wed **Noreen M. Espenida**, daughter of **Nonita M. Espenida** and the late **Erlindo A. Espenida**, on May 16 at St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral, Masbate City, Masbate. The bride designed her bridal gown and the ensembles of the entourage.

CATANA-PEREYRA

Ricky Catana will wed **Beth Pereyra** on May 4 at the St. John Bosco Parish Church, Makati City. Reception will follow at the Stargazer Function Room of Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila.

LUNA-PEREZ

Amorsolo "Sol" C. Luna, son of **Anastacio** and **Teresita Luna**, will wed **Mileth L. Perez**, daughter of **Florencio** and **Lourdes L. Perez**, on June 15 at the St. Joseph Parish Church in San Jose, Batangas. Reception will follow at the Villa Marines Resort, Ibaan, Batangas.

Showcase of wedding products and services

MAKATI Shangri-La, with Bride's Maids and Company, announces the staging of "Bridal Fete" at the Rizal Ballroom May 3-5. The event will showcase a diverse mix of wedding-related products and services by some of the top names in bridal fashion, floral design, invitation printers, makeup, keepsakes, photography, cakes, shoes and accessories. The fair will provide soon-to-wed couples and organizers a one-stop shop that will feature interactive booths where they can shop for bridal products and services, consult with wedding professionals and plan their dream weddings.

Three major bridal fashion shows will be staged. On May 3, 7 p.m., Bride's Maids and Company will present a parade of bridal gowns by veteran designers to commemorate its 10th anniversary. On May 4, 7 p.m., the Rizal Ballroom runway will showcase the latest bridal designs by members of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines whose members include Inno Sotto, Randy Ortiz and Josie Natori. On May 5, designer Carla Sibal will give "Bridal Fete" guests a glimpse of her latest wedding collections. Other attractions include live chamber music performances, a cooking demonstration conducted by Tefal Cookware, flower and makeup demonstrations.

"Bridal Fete" is open to the public. Call the Catering Department at 813-8888 local 7959, 7473 or 7476, or Bride's Maids and Company at 727-4595.

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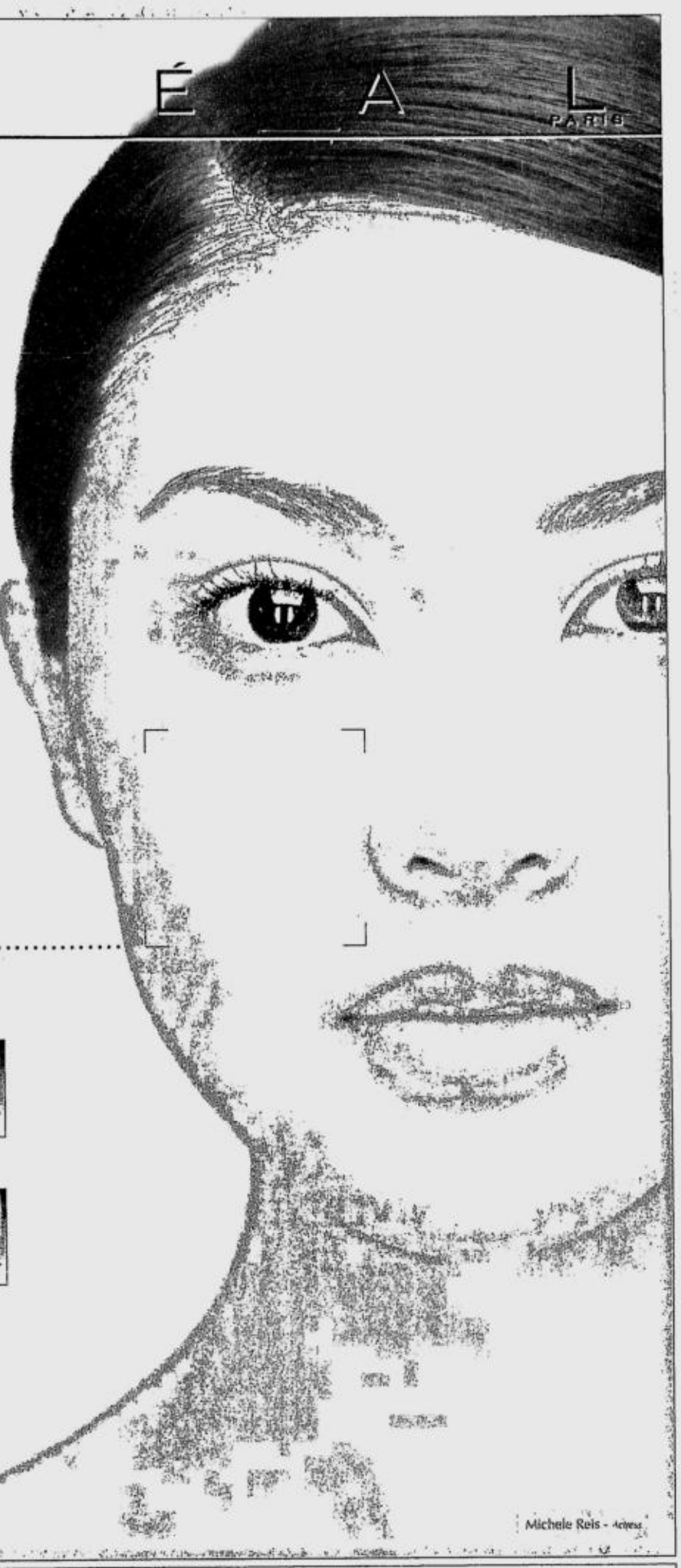

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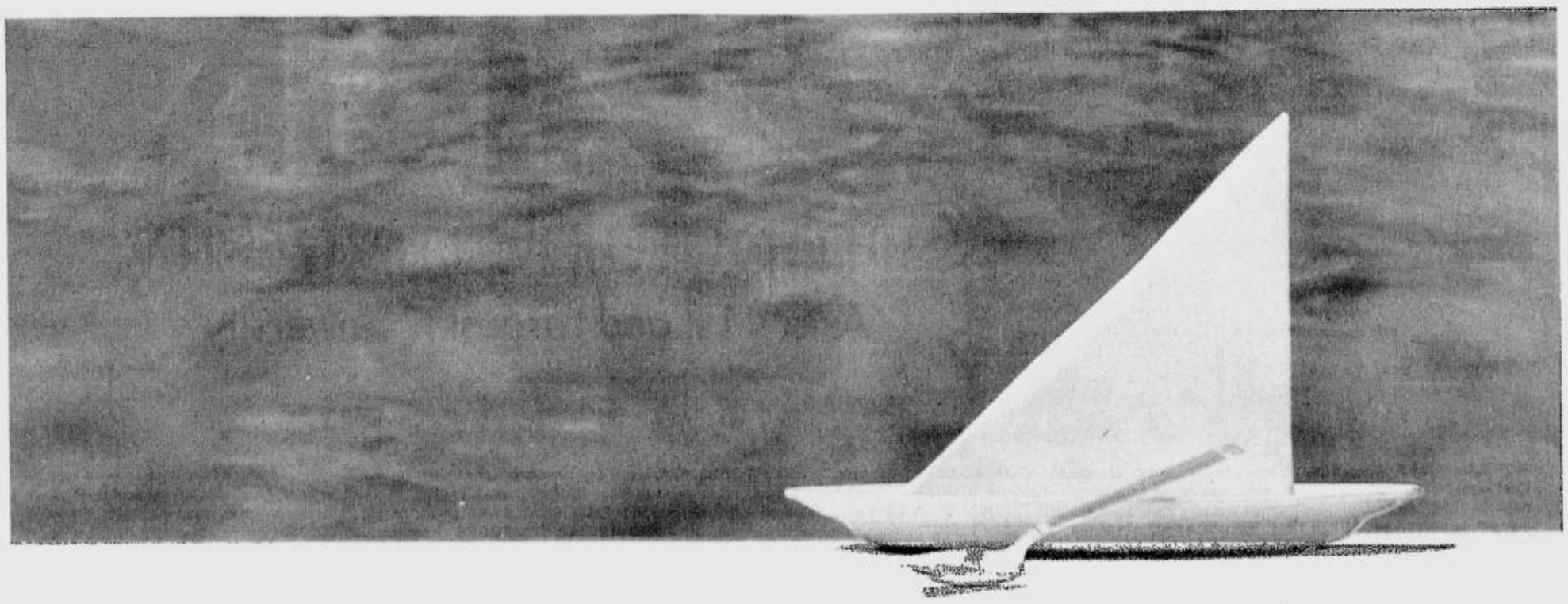

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Milestones

REYES-TORRES

Luisa Torres wed **Jonathan Reyes** yesterday at the Sacred Heart Church, San Fernando, Pampanga. The bride wore an ivory Thai silk gown designed by **Eric Pineda**. The strapless bodice was sprinkled with caviar beads, faux pearls and sequins. It had a back detail of handmade organza vines with dangling silk leaves. The detachable twin-panel train was adorned with handmade cabbage roses. A veil of antique ivory chantilly lace completed the ensemble. Reception followed at the Fontana Resort and Country Club, Clark Airfield, Pampanga.

OVERDAHL-MONTEMAYOR

Kristalee Ann Montemayor, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Michael S. Montemayor** of Washington, D.C. and Ayala Alabang, will wed **Nils Overdahl** of Boston, MA, son of Mr. and Ms **Norris Overdahl** of Clear Lake, Iowa and Naples, Florida, this spring in St. Michaels, Maryland. **Malu Veloso** designed the gowns for the entourage.

FALLER-VIOLA

Dr. **Albert Cesar S. Faller Jr.**, son of Dr. and Ms **Cezar Z. Faller** of Batangas, and Dr. **Anne Marie L. Viola**, daughter of Dr. and Dr. **Cecilio G. Viola** of Marikina, will wed on May 24 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pasay City. Reception will follow at the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel. **Danny de la Cuesta** designed the bride's gown.

MALAPAJO-DEL PILAR

Nestor D. Malapajo Jr., son of **Aurora D. Malapajo** and the late **Nestor M. Malapajo Sr.** of Imus, Cavite, will wed **Analyn M. del Pilar**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Enriqueta M. del Pilar** of Balayan, Batangas, on May 18 at the Immaculate Conception Church, Balayan. Fr. **Domie Guzman Jr.**, SSP, will officiate. Reception will follow at the bride's residence.

ALIDO-ALDE

Raymond G. Alido, son of **Rizalito** and **Gracelyn G. Alido**, will wed **Maria Esperanza C. Alde**, daughter of **Bienvenido** and **Amelia C. Alde**, on May 11 at the Parish Church of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, QC. Reception will be held at Shangri-La Restaurant, West Avenue, QC. **Cecil Bertumen** of Saro designed the bridal gown.

BALDO-RODEJO

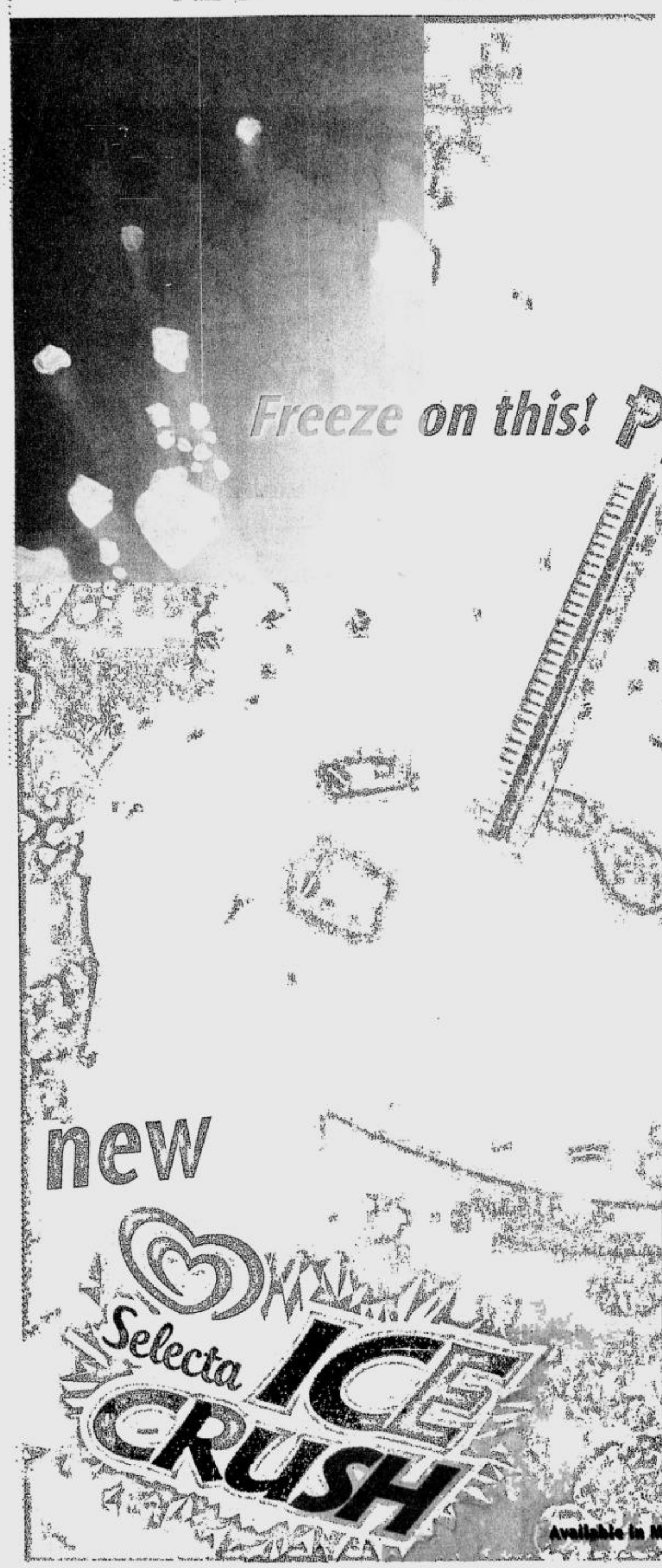
Gerard Ervin B. Baldo, son of **Ervin Baldo** and **Cynthia Bautista** of Quezon City, wed **Hazel Ivy B. Rodejo**, daughter of **Ferdinand** and **Rowena Rodejo** of Bicol, on April 14 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception followed at the Fiesta Pavilion, The Manila Hotel.

ABAD-TORRES

Jose Rodrigo R. Abad, son of Col. **Robert** and **Luz Abad**, married **Mercelita Gonzales Torres**, daughter of **Manuel Sr.** and **Belen Torres**, at the Our Lady of Annunciation Parish Church, QC. Reception was held at the Jade Valley Cantonese Cuisine. **Aurora V. Ramos** designed the gown.

BAYUG-PALMARES

Angelito Delgado Bayug, son of **Delgado** and **Lorenza D. Bayug**, wed **Angelita Padios Palmares**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Angelita P. Palmares**, yesterday at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church. Reception followed at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. **Edgar Allan** created the bridal gown.



LINDY Enrile Roxas and her dream team

AUDREY Puckett-Tiu wears a simple gown that doesn't compete with the fabulous Cartier tiara.

Thanks for the memories

From page G1

me a lot so my creativity really flowed. Plus, the trust factor was very important." The Climent-Banzon wedding was extra special as it set him on the road to becoming a much sought out designer.

FIRST bride Yvonne Banzon Climent

Lopez-Nieto

Chris Nieto is, in Laurel's own words, "one of my closest and dearest friends." When she decided to marry Miguel Lopez at the San Sebastian Church in December 1996, Laurel was the natural choice to do her wedding ensemble. "Chris was my *barkada* in high school so the emotional bond was very strong. It's really the process that makes the memory of a wedding extra special. Before her wedding we went to Hong Kong to bond and shop."

Laurel stresses that his work goes way beyond just creating the gown. "I'm not dictatorial and I don't impose. I really try to get as much input from the bride as I can. My business is making memories and in making sure that those memories are extra special."

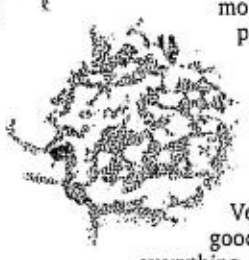
Tiu-Puckett

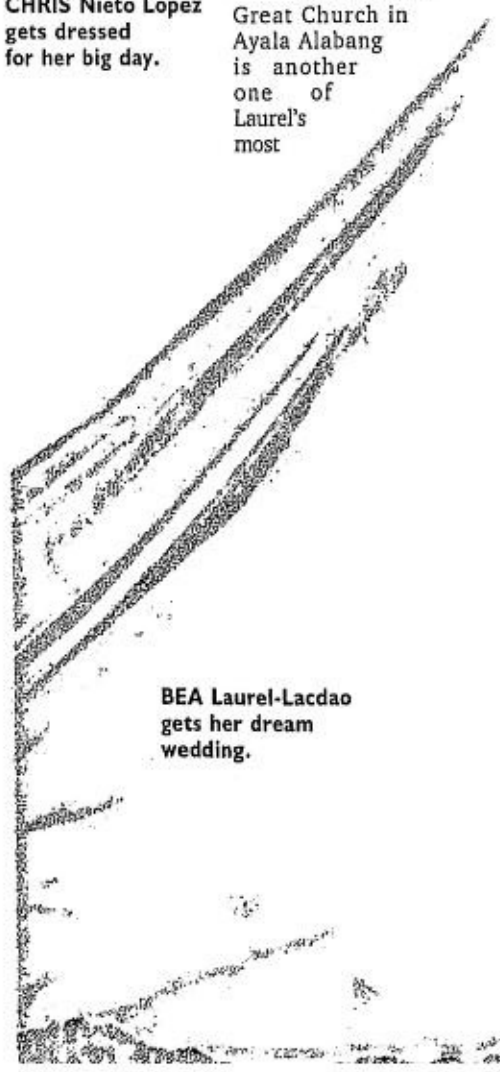
The pomp and pageantry of Audrey Puckett's November 1997 wedding to Aaron Tiu in Hong Kong were what made it memorable to Laurel. "It was also my first wedding out of the country. Grand, lavish and luxurious are the words I would use to describe it," he relates. "There was a lavish banquet after the wedding that required the bride to change clothes and jewelry four times. The design of Audrey's gown was very simple since her headpiece was a fabulous, vintage Cartier tiara."

CHRIS Nieto Lopez gets dressed for her big day.

Laurel-Amigo

Only brother John's wedding to Samantha Amigo in July 2000 at St. James the Great Church in Ayala Alabang is another one of Laurel's most memorable weddings. "We did that in a record time of 2½ weeks," he grins. "Again the time frame and the emotional bond attached to it are what make it very special."





BEA Laurel-Lacdao gets her dream wedding.

Roxas-Enrile

Another all-time favorite was Lindy Enrile's July 1996 wedding to Randy Roxas at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. "Look at the entourage," he notes. Handing over the photographs he says, "Look, all of them are so pretty, gorgeous and tall!" The bridesmaids and the rest of the entourage were a dream team—a designer's dream come true. He said he teased Lindy about picking the members of her wedding party for their heights and looks.

Germano-Laurel

Venice Laurel, Rajo's younger sister, had a wedding at the Manila Cathedral in January this year that was, as the designer describes it, a labor of love. "Six to seven months of preparation all in all with a trip to India thrown in."

Conceptualized around an Indian motif, specifically during the Raj period when India was invaded by the English, the details of Venice's wedding to Jigs Germano was truly fabulous, with a painstaking attention to detail.

"Because I grew up with Venice I knew what would look good on her. We really prepared everything, all she did was dress up," says Laurel.

Coming from a large clan, Laurel also had to close his shop in the last three weeks leading to the wedding. "Everyone was coming to us to have their clothes done. Family first and so we didn't accept clients for three weeks."

Lacdao-Laurel

First cousin Bea Laurel's wedding in December 2001 is another memorable one for the emotional ties and the process of preparation. "Bea is my most anal cousin. We traveled to Los Angeles the year before her wedding to source materials for her wedding. I had to make sure that everything was perfect." The inspiration for Bea's wedding came from a Kate Spade bag in vivid colors of orange, fuchsia and pink. "So different and that's what made it so memorable."

MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING. Chris Nieto Lopez glows in Rajo's creation.

SAMANTHA Amigo Laurel and her entourage got their Rajo gowns in just two weeks.

Tips to brides

Laurel is currently working on his first bridal book aptly titled "Beautiful," which is set to be launched in July. For brides-to-be, he has five suggestions for a memorable wedding.

"Number one, make sure to pay attention to those details and be creative. Everyone who comes to your wedding remembers the details from the invitation, to the souvenir to the table setting and the way your missalette is printed."

Second, Laurel counsels brides to let go at certain points. "The idea of a perfect wedding just does not exist," he stresses. Third, he emphasizes the importance of having fabulous music. "That always makes for a memorable wedding. If you have a budget, reserve a little more for the music."

"Weddings are supposed to be fun," Laurel says. "When it's not fun anymore, you better think twice about walking down the aisle." Lastly, mundane as it may sound, he cannot overemphasize the importance of wearing good shoes on the wedding day itself. "Shoes can make or break you. We're just fortunate that we make really good shoes in this country."

At the end of the day, the wedding should be memorable not just for the guests but, more importantly, for the bride and groom. "After each wedding I always like to ask myself, was my bride happy?" he says.

The many, many brides he has dressed through the years have become not only his clients but good friends. Proof that Rajo Laurel is both designer and memory maker of the first degree.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

FAMILY FIRST. For the wedding of Venice (shown here with dad Joey), brother Rajo had to close his shop.

WITH THE GROOM'S family: (from left) Martin, Marvin, mother Elizabeth, father Edgardo, Soojin, Michael, Matthew and Natasha

Roses and tulips: Blueprint for romance

THE BRIDE with esteemed fashion designer Ben Farrales

From page G8

government and even media. Fine classical music played signaling the start of the wedding march at exactly 7:15 p.m. with the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo, one of the principal sponsors. She wore a simple yet elegant silver lace gown.

The bride's sisters, Carissa and Monica, stood out among the members of the bridal entourage.

The groom's parents, the construction industry's Edgardo Cabrera and Cebu's Elizabeth Mapa-Cabrera, accompanied him to the altar.

Pat gracefully walked to the altar escorted by her parents, former Finex president Rupert Suarez and the lovely Marybeth Arroyo-Suarez, in a Ben Farrales creation of ecru bustier made of duchess silk with a sprinkling of expensive Swarovski crystals. She looked like a princess joining her prince at the altar.

Music set the right romantic mood throughout the brief ceremony.

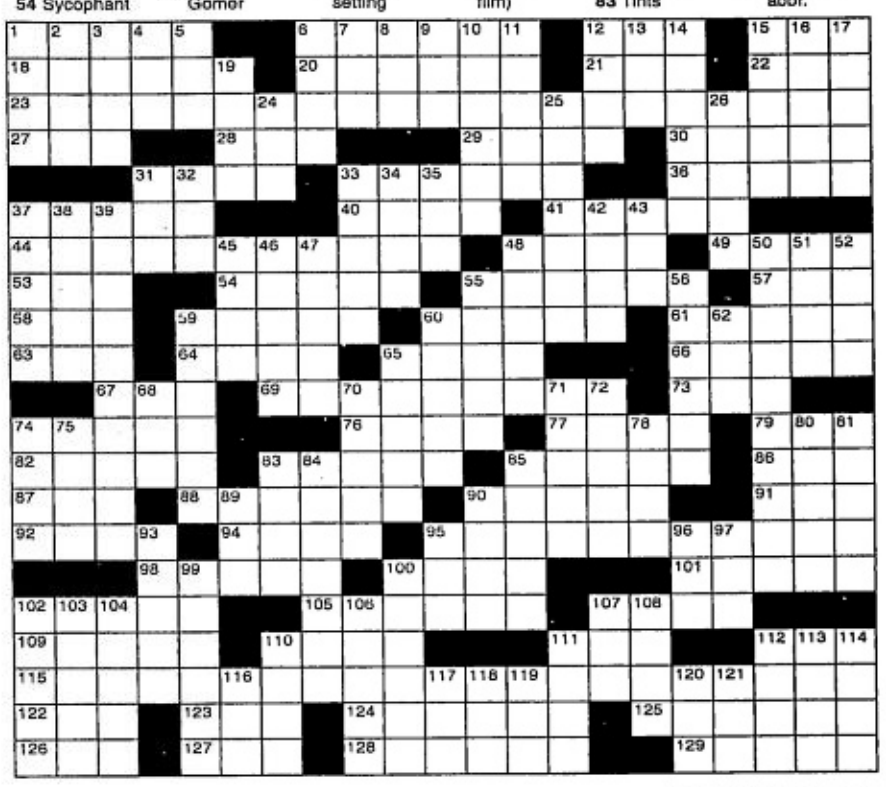
Reception at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula was equally elegant and memorable. An audiovisual presentation told the couple's love story. But what made the reception extra special was the bride's personal touch and involvement in decorating the venue, showing her own sense of style. She was assisted by wedding coordinator Rita Neri. An interior designer by profession, Pat made good use of her training and transformed the ballroom into a romantic paradise. Roses and tulips filled the room. The presidential table was laid out to show the initials of the new "partnership."

The night ended with the toasts and wishes for many years of togetherness for the newlyweds.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Foe
6 Most adventurous
12 Samoyed's smile?
15 Solidify
18 Half the diameter
20 Actress Renee
21 Unwell
22 Castilian cry
23 Start of a remark by Billy Connolly
27 He's a doll
28 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
29 Ration, with "out"
30 Shaggy ruminant
31 Eban of Israel
33 Maroon
36 Coeur d'—, ID
37 The Jetsons' dog
40 Boxing blow
41 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
44 Part 2 of remark
48 Songwriter Jacques
49 Pierce
53 Corsage fastener
54 Sycophant
55 Border —
57 Antipollution grp.
58 Squid's squirt
59 Undo an error
60 Rock's Pink —
61 October Revolution name
63 Average grade
64 Stack role
65 Conspire
66 Narrow shelf
67 Vitamin bottle abbr.
69 Part 3 of remark
73 Presidential nickname
74 Philatelist's need
76 Frank
77 "— Man" ('84 film)
79 Cleaning cloth
82 Castle campaign
83 Custom
85 Belief
86 Viral illness
87 Everything
88 Bacall or Chapin
90 Paraguayan title
91 UK honor
92 Goofy Gomor
94 Gourmet Graham
95 Part 4 of remark
98 Humble
100 It may get pickled
101 Hall's partner
102 — Dame
105 Cavort in the pool
107 Made cotton candy
109 The chosen few
110 WWII site
111 Rush
112 Periodontists' org.
115 End of remark
122 Zsa Zsa's sister
123 Actor Chaney
124 Virgilian epic
125 Vintner Gallo
126 Fled
127 Word with roll or cream
128 In
129 Architectural features

DOWN
1 Estrada or Satie
2 Church area
3 Genesis setting
4 "Cara —" ('65 hit)
5 Brynner of "Taras Bulba"
6 Motown's Marvin
7 Pitches
8 Trim the turf
9 Baseball stat
10 Children's author Maurice
11 Rocky Mountain range
12 Extensive
13 Cockpit fig.
14 Worldwide
15 Gaggle gal
16 Singer John
17 Sierra —
19 Clean the decks
24 In the manner of
25 Like Nestor
26 Flounder features
31 — deco
32 Singer Scaggs
33 TV's "Evening —"
34 With 103 Down, baseball's '64 Rookie of the Year
35 Poet McKuen
37 "A Dandy in —" ('68 film)
38 Oinkers
39 Barrie sprite
42 Put the metal to the metal
43 Biblical priest
45 To be, in Toulouse
46 Poke fun at the famous
47 Range rope
48 Shirley of "Hazel"
50 Novice
51 Make — of oneself
52 Bete noire
55 Circus performer
56 "Mama" Cass
59 Kind of paint
60 Armada
62 Cartoon cry
65 Charlemagne's dad
68 Excavated
70 Reserved
71 Where Devils fight Flames
72 High-toned guy?
74 PDQ, politely
75 Mrs. Munster
78 It'll curl your hair
80 Dramatist Edward
81 Risk an opinion
83 Tints
84 Cuffs
85 Saw features
89 Record abbr.
90 Hens and pens
93 "— Angel" ('55 hit)
95 Something for two
96 "— don't say!"
97 Blocker or O'Herlihy
99 Firefly, for one
100 Lawn cleaner
102 More up-to-date
103 See 34 Down
104 Big guy
106 Skirt feature
107 Silly Caesar
108 Pedigreed pooch
110 Ballad or barcarole
111 Actress Lamarr
112 Maintain
113 Actor Arnaz
114 Hammett hound
116 Grab all the goodies
117 Vane letters
118 Velvet finish
119 Free (of)
120 Pro-gun org.
121 Bankbook abbr.



ANSWER ON PAGE G3

THE NEWLYWEDS and the principal sponsors: *ninangs* Ester Cumagun, Milagros Sison, Caridad Desiderio, Sylvia Ching, Orpha Villarama (for Irma Garcia), Alicia Samson, Eleanor Lorenzo (for Carmen Yulo) and President Macapagal-Arroyo; and *ninongs* Arturo Arroyo, Justice Artemio Panganiban, Edgardo Limon, Lino Illera (for Mayor Sonny Belmonte), Emmanuel Sison (for Mayor Lito Atienza), Ramon Tulfo, Felino Palafox and Alfredo Cruz

Roses and tulips: Blueprint for romance

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo with the couple and their parents, Rupert and Marybeth Suarez and Elizabeth and Edgardo Cabrera

DASHING architect Mark Dominic Mapa Cabrera first met stunning young entrepreneur Patricia Marie Arroyo Suarez in a Makati bar on the evening of Aug. 14, 1999, a Saturday.

More than two years after that first meeting, Mark exchanged "I dos" with the woman of his dreams in elegant and glittery ceremonies at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. It may have taken a while between that first meeting and the altar date, but the couple actually realized they were meant for each other almost the instant they met.

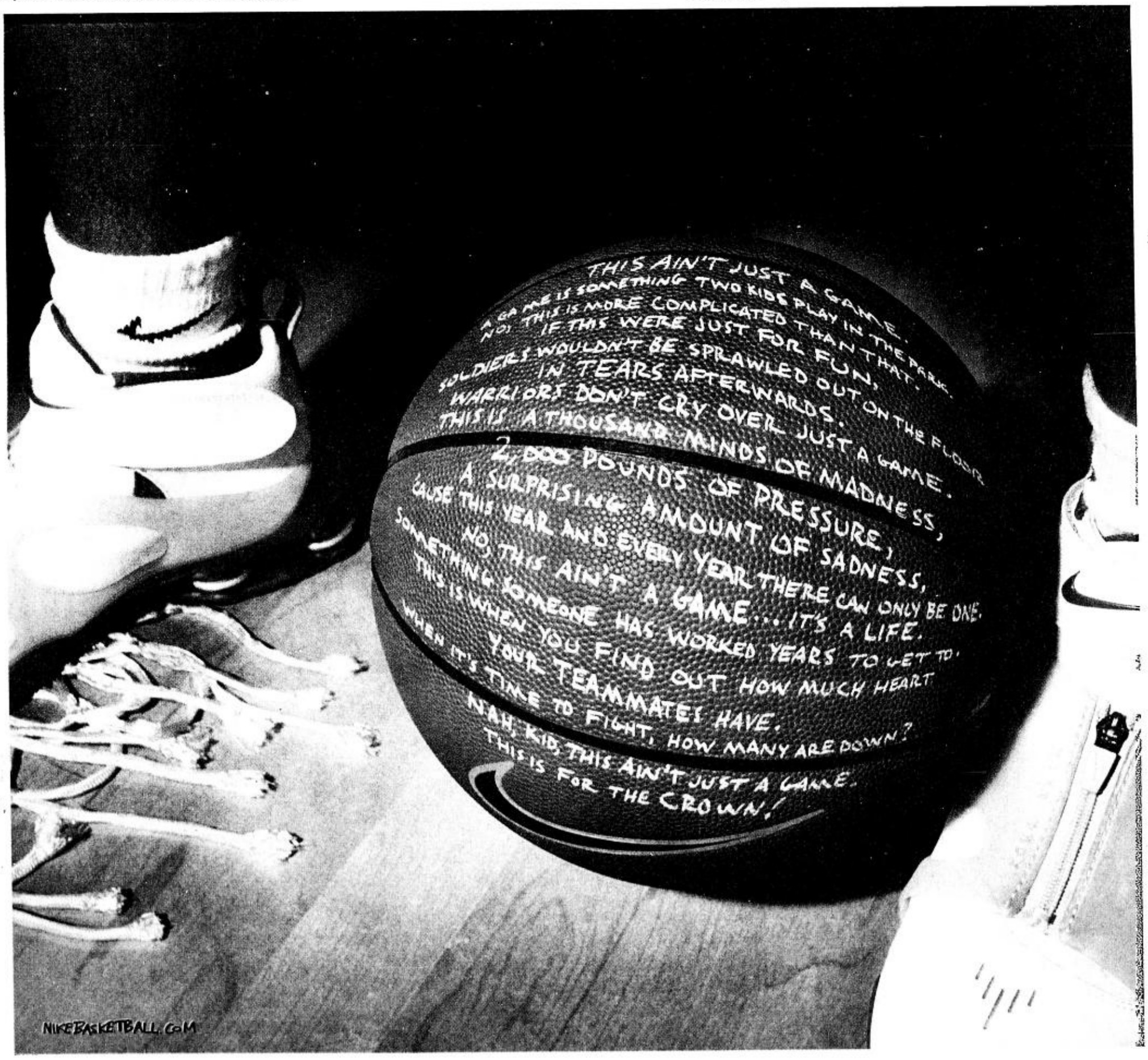
As Pat would relate it, she and Mark instantly hit it off after they were introduced by a common friend in Venezia. They spent the rest of the time glued to each other talking until 8 a.m. the following day.

The wedding was suitably romantic for two people who fell in love at first sight.

Almost everyone came way before the 7 p.m. altar call. The crowd was a beautiful mix of interesting personages from business, the

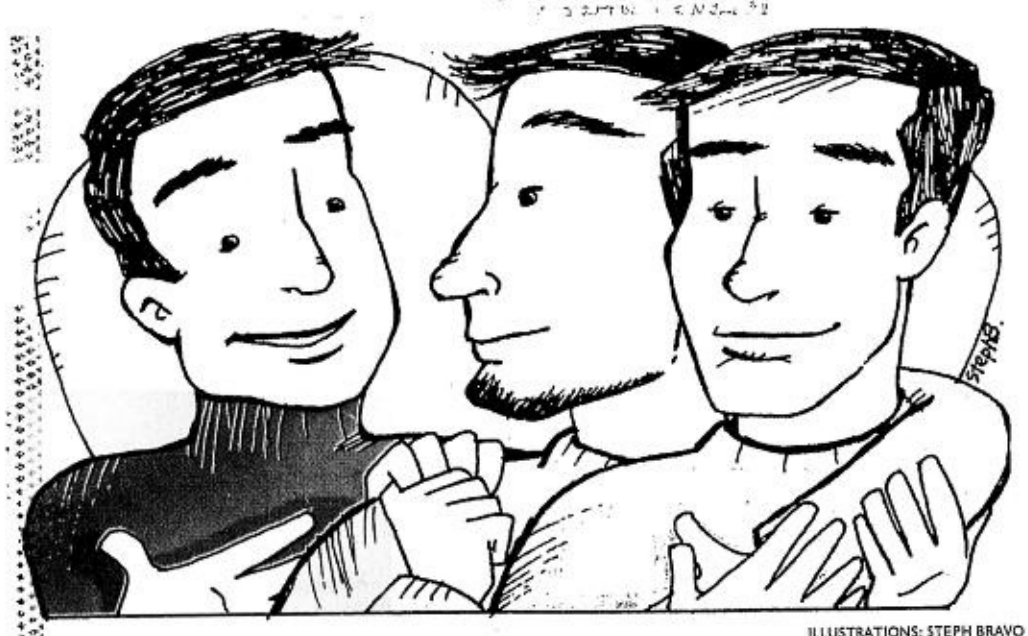
COUPLE/ p.G7

TRUE happiness glows on the faces of newlyweds Mark Dominic Mapa Cabrera and Patricia Marie Arroyo Suarez-Cabrera



For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Three guys bonded together—it was an expansion of love, a step up the evolutionary ladder

Isosceles triangle

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

BUDDY and Pol and Kayc are husband and wife, or father and mother, or sister and brother. Anyway, they were celebrating their "25th wedding anniversary plus 2." "*Tatlong lalaki*?" asked my incredulous husband. (Yes.) "And what does 25 plus 2 mean?"

Well, I explained, over the plump oysters we were plunking into our mouths, that Buddy had been living with Pol for 25 years, when two years ago, while on a teaching grant in Jakarta, he fell in love with a 30-year-old Indonesian boy named Kayc. Kayc loved him just as violently and begged to be brought home to Manila.

But first Buddy asked Pol if he could bring home another wife, and Pol said, "Okay." Pol is no push-over. He had been husband and father or wife and mother to Buddy for all his life, and if you love someone that much you just try to give them what their heart desires—and that was Kayc.

There was no possessiveness in the love of Pol and Buddy—Pol had himself fallen in love several times before—it was an open marriage. And that was how Kayc got into the 25th anniversary of Buddy and Pol. "Why does Buddy want to have his Kayc and eat it too?" asked my husband. "Because Buddy says he can't leave Pol, not after what they'd been to each other. Pol was Buddy's moral support. Also Buddy felt it might be a bit late in the day for Pol to find himself a new lover."

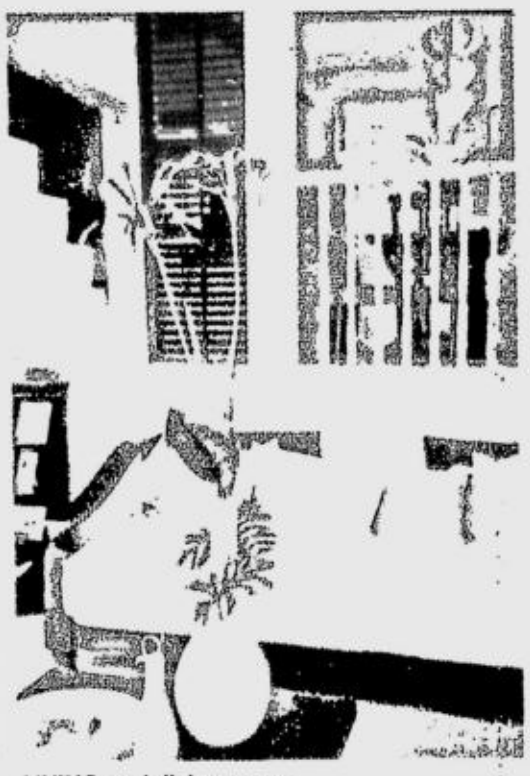
Breathtaking

Buddy's wedding or wedding anniversary was held in Yam's apartment. Yam is a mountain of a woman with a heart as big as the sun, and she was to be the priestess/rabbi/imam of the thing. Her apartment had been done over by Dondi, the choreographer of their dance community, and it was a breathtaking sight with twinkling lights and swags of cloth with fresh roses. I was so proud to be a guest/guestess.

ISOSCELES/ p.H3

EXTERIOR of Ungiolley model home with 160-sq-m floor area in La Marea, San Pedro

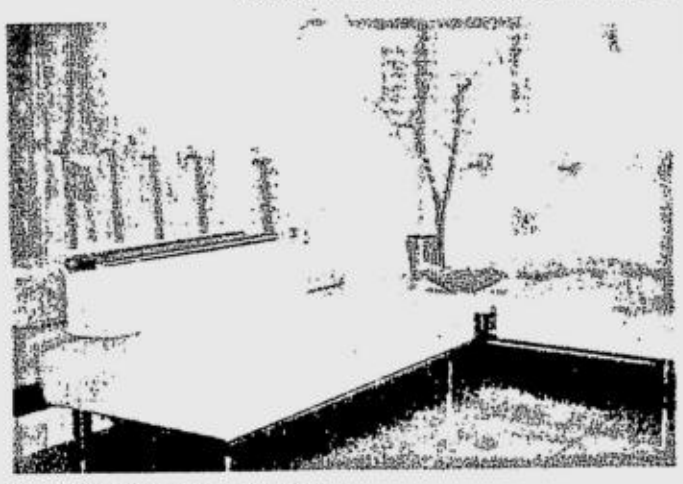
BEDROOM of Ungiolley home



LIVING and dining rooms

First home sweet home

HOUSE-HUNTING for newlyweds can be a daunting task because the first home is where they will make the memories that will last a lifetime. Brittany makes the kind of homes young and growing families will want to keep through the years. Its developments just outside Metro Manila—La Marea in San Pedro and Cottonwood Heights in Antipolo—define the meaning of prestige community.



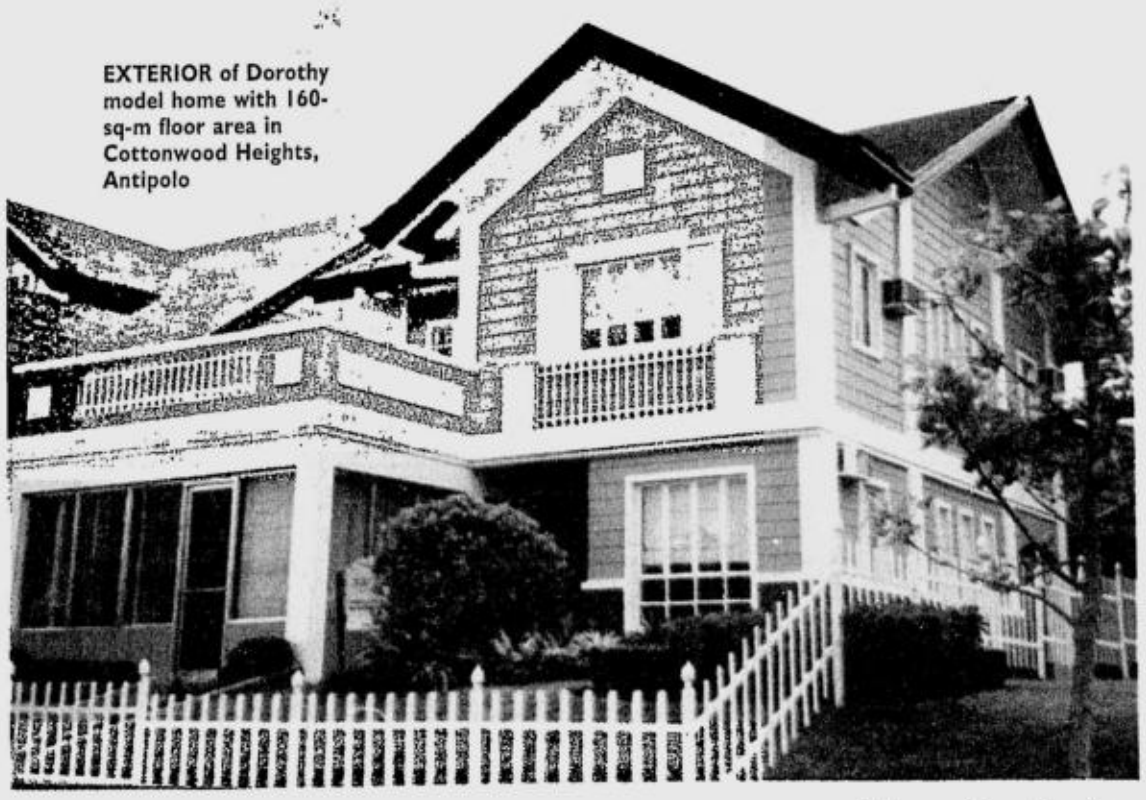
LIVING room of Sigourney home

EXTERIOR of Sigourney model home with 138-sq-m floor area in Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo

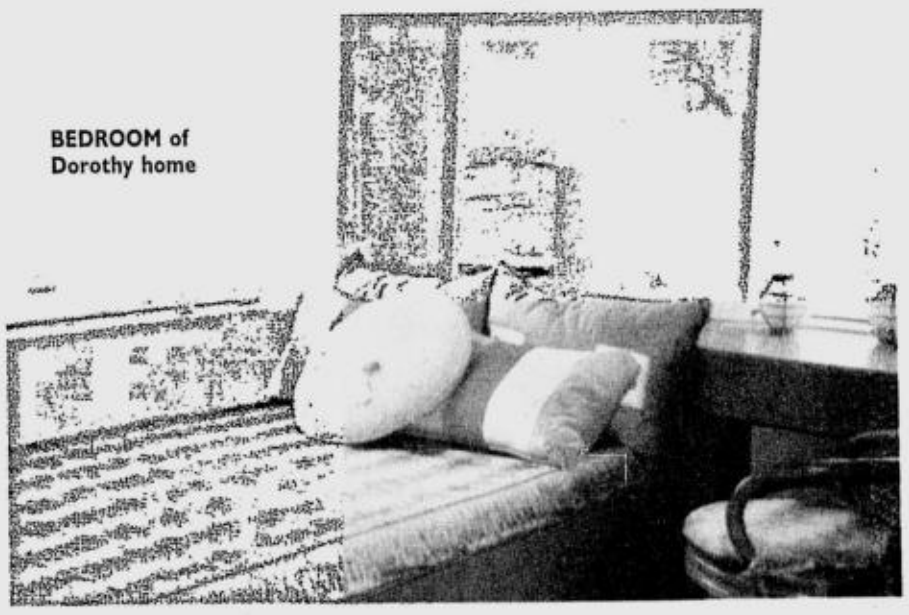
Cottonwood and La Marea are established communities with homes ready, built and waiting for you, at prices that range from P4-7 million. Each home is meticulously planned and executed, reflecting Brittany's commitment to quality. The views are spectacular—from the hillsides on a clear morning to the green garden expanse on an afternoon stroll.

For more information, call 850-3084/6989 or log on to www. brittany.com.ph.

EXTERIOR of Dorothy model home with 160-sq-m floor area in Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo



BEDROOM of Dorothy home



How to win friends and a trip to HK

A TRIP to Hong Kong awaits a *barkada* of four Filipina women who best typify the New Age Woman in the Hong Kong Tourism Board's "Hong Kong for the New Age Woman" contest.

Women between 18-35 years can join the search by simply writing an essay about themselves and three of their best girlfriends. They must write about their friendship, why they consider themselves as today's New Age Women, and why they want to go to Hong Kong together. The short essay, along with a photo of the group, must be attached to a sheet of paper with their names, contact numbers and birthdays. Mail entries to "Hong Kong for the New Age Woman" Promo, c/o Perceptions Inc., 3/F Fortune Office Building, 160 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Entries may also be e-mailed to hk_naw@perceptions-inc.com. Entries will be accepted until April 30.

Three finalist groups will be chosen and invited to appear before a panel of judges for an informal interview. The winning group will receive a trip for four to Hong Kong via Philippine Airlines with a three-night hotel accommodation at Marco Polo Hotel.

The "Hong Kong for the New Age Woman" is presented by the Hong Kong Tourism Board, with ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Magazine, Philippine Airlines and the Marco Polo Hotel Group.

Get ready to do the hula with your favorite cat

EVERYONE'S favorite cat will fly to Manila next month sporting a sun-tanned look. This summer get ready to say Hello... Aloha Kitty!

Sporting a tropical Hawaiian look, Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel will be touring the SM Supermalls this May via a Character Live Show and a Live Meet and Greet. The famous cat will be dressed in hula skirts. Kids can learn Aloha Kitty's dance steps and join the conga line at the end of a 20-minute show that will feature Aloha Kitty and Aloha Daniel.

Fans who match Aloha Kitty's hula outfit can win prizes when they join her at her mall tour.

An assortment of items inspired by the new Hawaiian look will be offered—vacuum-packed pillows, shirts, bags, puzzle boards, fans, coin banks and many more in the four designs of Aloha Kitty. The new collection will be available in all SM Malls and Department Stores starting May.

Aloha Kitty's tour of nine SM Supermalls with Aloha Daniel starts May 17 and ends June 2. Aside from the Character Live Show and Live Meet and Greet, fun, games and lots of surprises await those who will join the grand summer celebration by Gift Gate. The Manila production of Aloha Kitty is directed by Rowell Santiago.

Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel are exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc. They are available at all Gift Gate Stores and Sanrio Surprises Stores nationwide.

Products can get spoiled before expiration date

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

INNER Mind columnist Jaime T. Licauco may move in a different dimension where many of us fear to tread, but it's heartening to know that he is, after all, a mortal consumer like us who gets to buy spoiled products now and then at the supermarket. He bought one of those highly recommended oatmeal brands and discovered too late that it was spoiled and infested.

He called the attention of oatmeal manufacturers in Chicago: "I opened today a box of your Quaker Toasted Oatmeal Honey Nut and found a dead insect and a live and writhing small worm when I poured some contents into a dish. Fortunately, I had not eaten much of the stuff.

"The label on the box top cover states: *Best used by March 11, 02 RS23 18:10*. Other numbers on the top are 258-22 and 53721. The cereal was bought before the expiry date. But would that make a difference? The worm was still alive when I opened the sealed box."

We took a close look at the oatmeal shelves in the groceries and it overwhelmed us to see so many new brands and types. It's evidently the effect of all those infomercials about the benefits of eating oatmeal every day to lower cholesterol level and reduce risks of heart disease.

Unfortunately, some of the products are evidently no longer fit for eating although these are still within the safe limits of the expiry dates printed on the labels. One popular brand has labels in both English and Chinese characters, but the expiration date is written in Chinese.

Tips on buying oatmeal

- Avoid imported oatmeal in original containers that look old and battered.
- Check expiry dates. Don't buy products nearing their expiry dates.
- Don't buy if expiry date is written in alien characters.
- It is better to choose a product with see-through container so the condition of the cereal is visible.
- If the cereal is starting to have powdery grains, it is a sign of insect infestation.
- Most groceries follow the principle of first-in, first-out when stocks are arranged on shelves. New arrivals are usually placed at the back and older stocks go up front to make them accessible to buyers.
- Return spoiled cereal to the grocery and demand refund or replacement.

Oatmeal lowers cholesterol

Some time ago, a reader asked if there was medical basis for the claims of advertisers that oatmeal lowers cholesterol level and reduces risk of heart disease.

We consulted the Nutrition Therapy and Diet Clinic, and was assured by nutritionist Nancy Jane Ayran that there were indeed several scientific studies that proved oatmeal could reduce total and low-density cholesterol. As a result, it reduced the risk of coronary heart disease, she added.

"The (US) Food and Drug Administration awarded the health claim of Quaker Oats Co. in January 1997. Studies conducted on 37 cases for 15 years showed cholesterol-lowering effects of oatmeal," the nutritionist pointed out.

In answer to our question, she explained there was nothing wrong with adding sugar to oatmeal, moderately. She added that diabetics should avoid sugar. "They should not be misled by infomercials that advise honey, which the body recognizes also as sugar."

For more information on oatmeal and functional foods (processed foods containing ingredients that aid specific bodily functions, besides nutrition), call Sanirose S. Orbeta, the clinic and sports nutritionist of Nutrition Therapy and Diet Clinic (tels. 852-6401/02).

No receipts at QC establishments

PRETTY Woman of cvisitacion@hotmail.com wrote: "I went to a newly opened sing-along bar on Quezon Boulevard, QC where I paid P700 entrance fee and P2,000 for food and beverage. No official receipt was issued. The place was fully packed. Other establishments that don't issue official receipts are: Japanese-American restaurant on Quezon Boulevard, vegetarian restaurant on Roces Street, a ceramic shop in Kanlaon.

"I reported it to the QC Mayor's office but was told I should bring the matter to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. When I called up the BIR, I was tossed like a ping-pong ball between several telephone numbers that I was told to call up."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

Isosceles triangle

From page H1

It was a beautiful ceremony. Everybody cried as Buddy, Pol and Kayc descended the staircase wearing various white *kurtas*. In the alcove they read their vows to one another, defining their commitments—Buddy to Pol and Kayc, Pol to Buddy and Kayc, and Kayc to Buddy and Pol. And Yam married them to all intents and purposes.

Of course, because even if they did want a priest no priest would marry them (there used to be one in Davao, they said, but he got excommunicated). One married male guest wondered aloud when the same would come to pass in heterosexual marriages, and his wife shot him a dirty look. All the older single girls envied the three lovers for being able to make love last and find a new one. The gays wondered when they would have their own Kayc and eat it, too.

Buddy said that if later on Kayc fell deeply in love with someone else, he would let him go, just as Pol had let him go. Kayc said he could not promise he would be with Buddy until he died, but he knew he would love Buddy until he died. He told Pol he loved him, too. Everyone cried some more, then we group-hugged, and then we ate.

Step up

On the way home, cocooned in the darkness of my husband's car, with his golf clubs rattling behind, I wondered, was I being immoral? Because I could just not see anything wrong with such an honest declaration of loyalty and commitment. To me it was an expansion of love, a step up the evolutionary ladder. Nothing whatsoever to do with religion and all the fences heterosexuals have erected around the marriage vow. For weren't three people bonded to all intents and purposes, sharing one roof, a test in ultimate patience and giving?

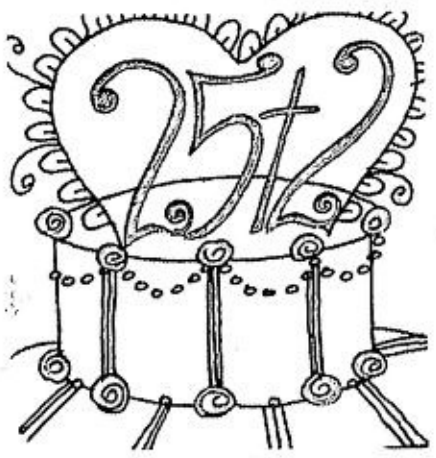
Was the postmodern marriage the prototype of what marriage was going to be in the future? No chains! No rules! Only love. Since love has always been suspect, that should make the old hats hit the roof.

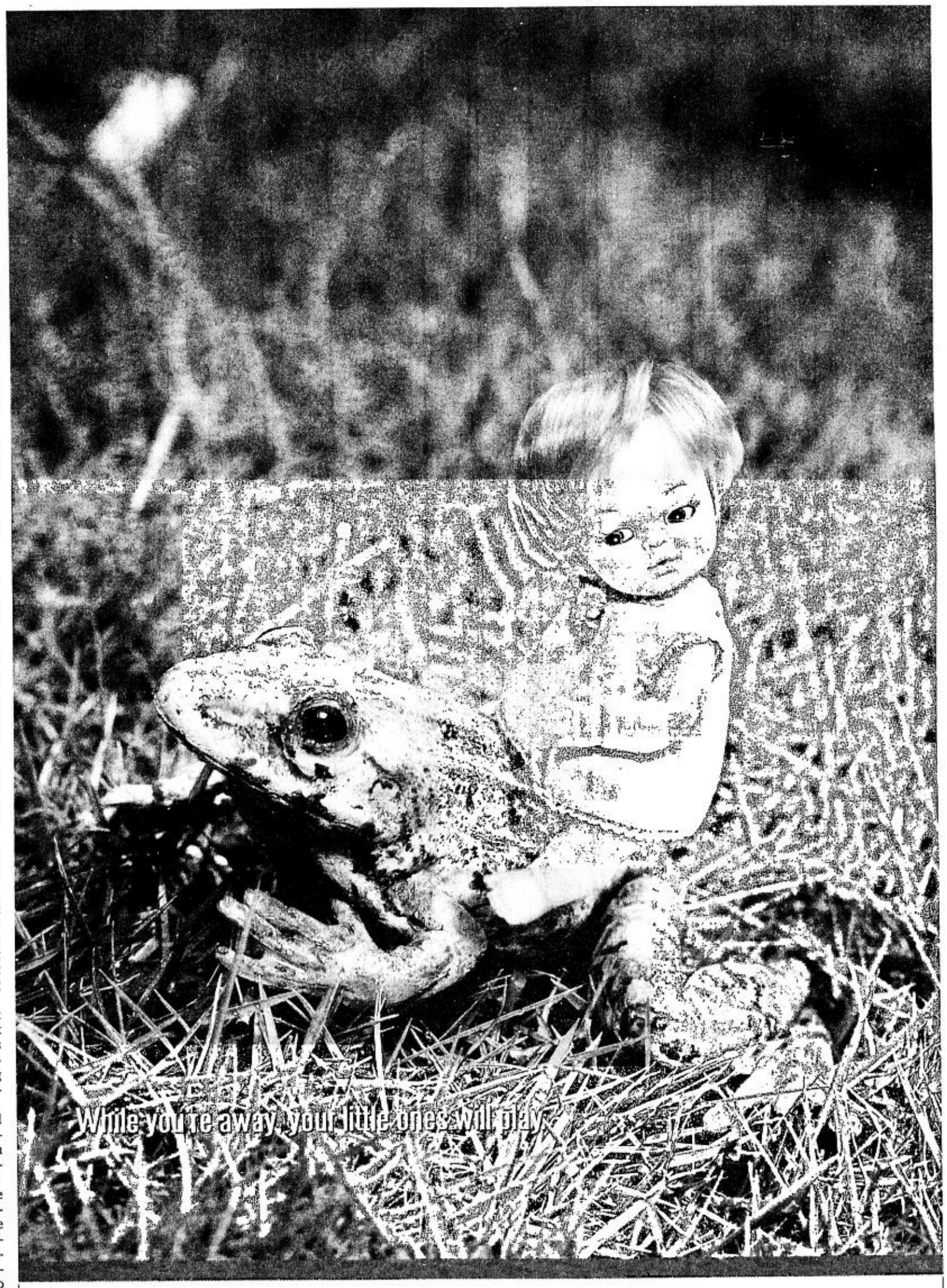
I remember when I was a young mother, an old friend, a male, dropped by our house to visit me. My husband raised an eyebrow, "So, is it going to be like when you were single, with boys visiting you?" My heart sank. I knew that thenceforward males who were not our conjugal friends would have a questionable welcome in our house. I could see the desert I was going to face. I wondered why things that were right were considered wrong, and so many wrong things were hailed as correct in my world.

Times have changed somewhat since, but not that much. Too many fences still out there, I hear. Males are still telling their wives what to do. So many unfulfilled young couples! So many young wives furiously enrolling in self-help workshops and consulting astrologists to keep from drowning!

The possibility of complete freedom and truthfulness is still too wild for society to entertain. And conventional marriages keep on breaking up. The average for today's generation seems to be two marriages in a lifetime.

The old rules, good for my generation, are no longer holding. But the young people continue to hope and are still marching down the aisle in droves. To save the marriage institution, unspoken marital rules between heterosexuals obviously need retooling. Not to become a Buddy, Pol and Kayc marriage, just to loosen up enough to find its own new and more viable form.





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- With valid driver's license and willing to travel

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- Must be computer literate and has knowledge in autoCad operation / at least 1 year min. experience in similar capacity / Housekeeping supervision experience is an advantage

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Interested applicants may send their resumé with latest 1x1 photo and contact number to the address below:

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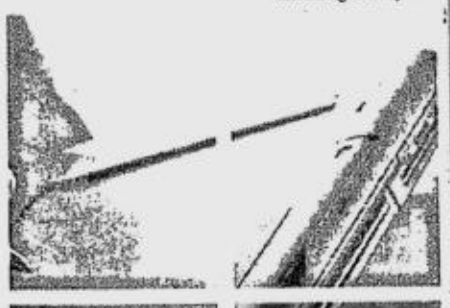

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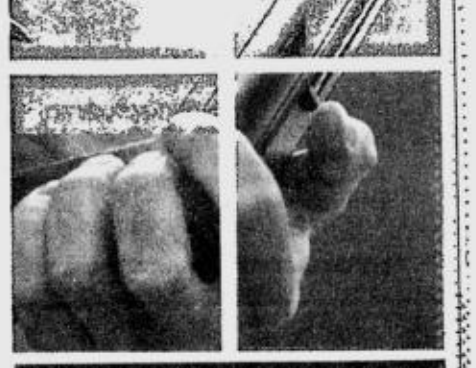

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- reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems, initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with OIST through the coordinating officer in charge;
- maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions, and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as required to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting;
- preparing reconciliations of control, banks, security custody and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff;
- processing transactions through the preparation of appropriate disbursement, collection or journal vouchers or other relevant documentation;
- reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines;
- reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines; and
- performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four-year college degree in business administration, major in accounting, with a CPA designation;
- more than 4 years experience in accounting preferably in a computerized environment of a large organization;
- experience in treasury accounting and good understanding in investment and funding instruments;
- experience in a system implementation;
- proficiency with MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Powerpoint, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate reports;
- good understanding of accounting policies, practices and systems, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- good command of written and spoken English;
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of the relevant areas prevalent in a multilateral institution;
- systematic and analytical skills, and strong numerical ability, with great attention to detail;
- good understanding of basic general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof;
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- ✓ willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila including the southern part.
- ✓ computer literate
- ✓ 21 to 26 yrs. old / single

Stock Clerk
- ✓ graduate of any 4 yr. business course
- ✓ computer literate
- ✓ 21 to 26 yrs. old / single female

Graphic / Visual Merchandising Artist
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- ✓ Proficient in computer graphics software (Adobe / Corel / Quark Express, etc..)
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- Preferably with managerial/supervisory experience
- Excellent leadership skills and highly motivated
- Can work under pressure and even on extended hours
- Computer literate

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- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or any Business Course from a reputable college/university
- With at least 1 year work experience in seafreight (Import/Export)
- Computer literate and with good command, both oral and written, of English language
- Can work under pressure and even on extended hours
- Knows how to drive and with professional drivers license

ACCOUNTANT
- Male, not more than 30 years old, with pleasing personality
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Certified Public Accountant
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate, with good leadership qualities and can work under pressure
- With at least 1 year work related experience

(Previous Applicants Need Not Apply)
Qualified applicants are requested to personally hand-carry their resumé with 2x2 photo and proof of records not later than May 3, 2002 at:

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Send bio-data thru DHL, JRS, LBC, or Hand-Carry comprehensive resumé with detailed job descriptions, certificates of previous and present employment, training/seminar certificates, school credentials, three (03) self-addressed stamped envelopes, one (01) big brown envelope and six (06) copies 2"x2" pictures to:

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Telephone Numbers: 723-0684 to 86 / 723-8730
LICENSE NO.: 093-LB-022702-R

Or send through e-mail addresses: recruit@info.com.ph / manpower@info.com.ph / careerplanners_ph@yahoo.com / career@pinoycentral.com and/or careerplanners@hotmail.com
This AD is approved by POEA Per MC # Section 2, 1998 / No Fees to be Collected
Beware of Illegal Recruiters / For Manpower Pooling Only

TEAM ASIA CORPORATION
- AIR-CONDITIONING (HVAC)
- VENTILATION
- COOLITE INSULATION
- REFRIGERATION
- WATERPROOFING
- AGRI-PRODUCTS

WE ARE EXPANDING!!! We are looking for high-caliber individuals with excellent scholastic records from reputable universities who have the drive and skills to deliver results in a Competitive environment.
Only those who have the desire to be a Millionaire need apply for these sales positions. We offer attractive incentives and commission rates higher than the industry.

SALES MANAGER (Code: SM)
- Very pleasing personality
- Aggressive and with excellent oral communication skills
- With 3 years experience in selling any of the above products
- With existing distribution networks or data base of clients
- Fluency in Chinese language an advantage
- Must be result-oriented, assertive, able to work under pressure
- Must be highly motivated, self starter, and with strong leadership

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (CODE: AS)
- Very pleasing personality
- Aggressive and with excellent oral communication skills
- Highly motivated and self starter
- With existing distribution networks or data base of clients
- Fluency in Chinese language an advantage
- 20 to 30 years of age

PROJECT/CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

Job Code	Position	Job Code	Position
PM – 01	Project Manager	CM – 04	Electrical / Communications Engineer
CM – 02	Civil / Structural Engineer		
CM – 03	Architect	CM – 05	Mechanical Engineer

- Must be of good moral character with high integrity
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With extensive experience in Construction Management
- Must be computer literate
- Must be willing to work extended hours

SALES COORDINATOR (Code: SC)
- 21 to 30 years old
- Architecture / Civil Engineering Graduate
- Very pleasing personality
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Can work under extreme pressure and willing to work extended hours if warranted.

LEASING ASSISTANT (Code: LA)
- Female, very pleasing personality
- Proficient in computer skills
- Sales experience, an advantage
- 20 to 30 years old
- Aggressive and with excellent communication skills

THIS IS THE NEW IT REVOLUTION.
THIS IS THE FUTURE.
JOIN US NOW.

LEDTRONICS

SMS / STOCK / NEWS TICKER DISPLAYS
Be among the first to join the Pioneer and World Leader in Communication Solutions Through Technology featuring full spectrum of SMS Media System and other advanced-state-of-the-art Computer Programmable Display Systems for Indoor and Outdoor applications in Business, Mass Transit, Government, sports and etc.

MARKETING MANAGER
- Male or Female, aged 25 to 35
- With at least 3 years work experience in advertising or marketing
- Graduate of a reputable university
- Preferably with MBA units
- Possesses strong interest in IT
- A team player with a positive work attitude
- Proficient in written and oral communication

ACCOUNT SALES EXECUTIVES
- Very pleasing personality
- Aggressive and with excellent oral communication skills
- Highly motivated and self starter
- With existing distribution networks or data base of clients
- Fluency in Chinese language an advantage
- 20 to 30 years of age

Come personally with an application letter and detailed resume with a recent picture to:

Mrs. Cyde Gonzales
Team Asia Corporation
430 Lt. Artiaga St., San Juan, Metro-Manila
(Near N. Domingo & M. Paterno Sts.)
E-Mail: usaphils@pacific.net.ph

A fast growing brand of apparel is currently in the process of expanding its market reach through aggressive product distribution, market driven product development strategies, and innovative marketing communications strategies is currently looking for the following key people in its organization.

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER
- ☐ Not more than 45 years old Minimum of 7 years experience as sales manager
- ☐ Preferably with extensive experience in the retail, garments, or consumer goods sales
- ☐ BS Degree in Business or related field, preferably with MBA
- ☐ Proven sales track record and ability to motivate people
- ☐ Superior communication, analytical, and organizational skills

MIS MANAGER
- ☐ Not more than 35 years old
- ☐ Minimum of five years experience as MIS Manager
- ☐ Experience in manufacturing, retail, or consumer oriented companies
- ☐ BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate
- ☐ Strong background in developing various computer system and programs
- ☐ With superior communication, analytical, and organizational skills

Be part of the winning team. Send your resumé, salary history, and character references to the President / CEO

Box 200
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

R&D (Chinese Food Specialist)

If you are - a Food Technology graduate with real food preparation experience and an expert in Chinese and Asian Food. You are hardworking and with high sense of urgency. You can work with a team. You can work for long hours in the development and perfection of your art. You are flexible, resourceful and supportive in transforming your menu specials to commercial production process. Can write and speak fluent Mandarin and English. Willing to relocate in Shanghai, China.

COMPTROLLER

If you are - a Certified Public Accountant. Equipped with adequate experience in bookkeeping and general accounting. You are flexible and hardworking. You can withstand pressure and is able to work through extended hours. Analytical and is attentive to details. Competent and dependable. Can speak and write fluent Mandarin and English. Willing to relocate in Shanghai, China.

WE ARE AN INDUSTRY LEADER AND A GROWTH COMPANY

Qualified candidates may send their updated resume and recent ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 13462
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY

Accountants

Our clients, all reputable domestic firms need experienced Accountants.

Those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's with above average scholastic records, proficient in word or excel, will be the ideal candidates.

As the need to fill in the positions are urgent, interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center Sedeño Street,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Telephone No. 813-1058
Facsimile No. 819-0485

INFONXX
THE VISION. THE VALUE. THE VOICE OF INFORMATION.

Founded in 1991, INFONXX has been organized from the beginning to respond to highly specific information needs. We've developed a suite of enhanced information solutions not available from traditional DA providers.

This success is based on superior technology, exacting quality control, and uncompromising standards of customer service. Our agents undergo constant, intensive screening, training and monitoring to ensure that those standards are always maintained.

Solutions from INFONXX have generated dramatic usage increases. INFONXX now handles more than 13 million enhanced directory ssistance calls a month as we have aggressively expanded our service.

QA Team Manager

- Must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree
- Minimum of 2 years customer service experience within a call center environment and minimum one year quality assurance experience or comparable work experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Highly adept with the use of computers
- With pleasant voice, positive, friendly demeanor, superior attendance record required

Team Manager

- Must possess at least a Bachelor, Post Graduate Diploma or Professional Degree in any field
- Required skills: Call Center, Customer Service and Team Lead
- At least 3 years work experience in related field
- Preferably junior executives specializing in Customer Service (Non Technical)
- Excellent communication skills

Trainer

- Bachelor's degree
- Prior training or teaching experience preferably from a customer service industry
- Excellent teaching and computer skills, ability to effectively communicate and motivate, ability to act as a role model to trainees
- Highly flexible and creative

Customer Service Representative

- Bachelor's Degree
- Preferably with previous call center experience
- Required skills: able to type 20wpm, better than average spelling skills, customer service skills, excellent English communication skills

INFOnxx (Philippines), Inc.
11th Flr. RCBC Plaza Tower 2,
Ayala Ave., cor Sen. Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

ASSOCIATE ACCOUNTING ANALYST

Reporting Arrangements:
The position reports to Control Officer, Investments, Borrowings, SRP, and Bank Reconciliation Section, Accounting Division, Controller's Department.

Description of Responsibilities:
The position is responsible for supervising and coordinating the administrative and processing activities in a specialized work area within the accounting function of ADB specifically in the accounting of investment and borrowings together with related derivative transactions: carrying out administrative functions, as required; establishing and maintaining related accounting records and sound accounting/internal controls; preparing accounting and other reports; and as relevant, preparing financial statements and related reports in a timely manner. Specific responsibilities include:

- supervising and reviewing the work of subordinate staff in controlling, processing, and recording data; preparing reports; completing work timely and in conformity with policies, practices, and procedures; providing technical and procedural guidelines to subordinate support staff;
- preparing and contributing in the preparation of financial statements and other reports as required by coordinating data collection, ensuring reported amounts agree with control accounts; conducting required analysis, and ensuring that the draft statement/ report is produced in a timely and accurate manner. In the case of accounting reports, ensuring that they are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- reviewing, analyzing, and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems; initiating changes and revisions to existing systems, and coordinating the needs of the work area with OIST through the coordinating officer in charge;
- establishing, maintaining, and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as required to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting in compliance with applicable policies, practices, and generally accepted accounting principles; monitoring all accounts subject to reconciliation, ensuring all statements/reports are received and reconciled on a timely basis; preparing and verifying, as appropriate, reconciliation reports of control, banks, security custody and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff; compiling, analyzing, and reviewing financial and accounting data as basis for the preparation of reports; reviewing the accuracy, consistency, and propriety of supporting documentation for all accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures, and guidelines;
- coordinating and providing required information in accordance with established procedures, in a tactful manner;
- actively participating in defining requirements under treasury risk management system; and
- performing any other assignments as required including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisor's review.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four-year college degree in business administration, major in Accounting; a CPA designation;
- at least seven years accounting experience, preferably in a computerized environment with some supervisory role, in a large organization;
- experience in treasury accounting, related internal control and thorough understanding in investment and funding instruments including related derivative instruments;
- experience in computer application implementation;
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills, and ability to provide feedback to subordinate support staff;
- proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Powerpoint, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc reports;
- good understanding of accounting policies, practices and systems, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- excellent oral and written skills in English
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of relevant areas in a multilateral institution to enable accounting concepts to be applied appropriately;
- analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills and great attention to detail;
- good knowledge of Accounting system and its interfaces with other systems and work areas prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- good understanding of general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof; and
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules and requirements in order to meet deadlines.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

*Send CV/resume and cover letter by **fax, mail or e-mail.** An **online form** is available at **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp.***
*Quote **Ref. No. 02-06** and submit application by **10 May 2002** to:*

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Unibancard Corporation
METROBANK

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Unibancard Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Metrobank Group, currently the largest financial conglomerate in the country.

As part of its goal to remain highly competitive in the market and improve its service to its cardholders, the company is looking for high-caliber candidates who could fill in the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
- With at least 2 years experience in customer service

COLLECTION OFFICER
- With at least 2 years experience in collection

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- Minimum three (3) years experience in any of the following areas:
  - product development
  - corporate communication
  - advertising and promotion
- Excellent presentation skills

METHODS OFFICER
- Preferably a graduate of Industrial Engineering
- At least 3 years experience in systems and methods preferably in a financial institution

CREDIT OFFICER
- At least 2 years consumer credit experience

ALL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:
- A graduate of a 4-year business related course
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Hardworking, goal oriented with a drive for "success" and "excellence"
- Willing to be involved in a constantly fast-paced work environment
- Strong leadership abilities
- Excellent analytical skills and sound judgment
- Self-motivated and able to work independently as well as in a team
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 photo, and official transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
UNIBANCARD CORPORATION
16th Floor, PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 845-0101 local 4607 or 870-0906

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

ASSOCIATE SYSTEMS ANALYST

Reporting Arrangements:
The position reports to Principal Information Systems and Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology.

Description of Responsibilities:
The position will participate in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of medium- to large-scale information systems involving low to medium technical complexity under the supervision of a Principal Information Systems and Technology Specialist and a Computer Systems Analyst. Specific responsibilities include:

- assisting in systems planning and strategy formulation activities;
- conducting Functional Needs Assessments for medium- to large-scale information systems;
- designing and preparing detailed system/program specification for assigned application systems;
- ensuring that applications are designed, documented and implemented in accordance with industry standards, system specifications and ADB standards;
- developing and implementing test plans and procedures for assigned systems; and
- developing application conversion and coordinating implementation with users.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four year college degree in Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering or related areas;
- at least seven years experience in systems analysis and design;
- proficiency in either (i) Oracle applications implementation and maintenance as well as design, development and implementation of extensions and custom applications using Oracle Development tools; or (ii) Lotus Notes R5 applications implementation and maintenance as well as design, development and implementation of extensions and custom applications on using Domino, would be preferred;
- excellent command of oral and written communication skills in English; and
- understanding of current office management technologies (MS Office, MS Project, Lotus Notes etc).

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

*Send CV/resume and cover letter by **fax, mail or e-mail.** An **online form** is available at **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp.***
*Quote **Ref. No. 02-11** and submit application by **10 May 2002** to:*

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Suzette Mfg. & Trading Corp.
is in need of the following:

MERCHANDISER IN GARMENT MFG
- ✓ Female, not more than 35 years old, grad. of any 4 years course or its equivalent, at least 3 years extensive experience as merchandiser in a garment manufacturing company. Particularly children wear and knit items.
- ✓ Can do sourcing and prod dev. (like fit and prod sample) Can do costing, consumption and pattern dev.
- ✓ Should be a pro-active and results-oriented individual

Q.A. MANAGER/SUPERVISOR
- ✓ Female, not more than 40 years old graduate on clothing technology or its equivalent
- ✓ Can design, implement, and monitor an effective and efficient QA System
- ✓ Experience in garment export production and TQM

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- ✓ Female, IE grad. computer lit.
- ✓ Must know how to conduct time motion study
- ✓ Knows operation breakdown
- ✓ Flexible and can work w/ minimal supervision

GARMENT PATTERN MAKER
- ✓ M/F 25-35 years old, at least 2 years experience as Pattern Maker in a garments manufacturing company
- ✓ Knowledgeable in all facets of pattern making
- ✓ Organize and can work with minimum supervision

Please come personally and bring pertinent documents at
81-B Nicanor Roxas Street, Banawe, Quezon City.
(Near Orthopedic Hospital) Tel: 741-5586; Fax: 7430140
Email: smtc@info.com.ph

CONCORDE
CARACCESSORIES CENTER
YOUR ONE-STOP SHOPPING SPOT

is in need of the following personnel:

Warehouse Manager
Male, single/married, 35-45 years old • Graduate of any business related course • At least 3 years extensive experience in warehouse management • Has strong leadership skills but willing to work with a team • Willing to render long hours of work • Able & willing to implement measures for effective & efficient warehouse management • With pleasing personality

Sales Personnel
Male, 18-26 years old • College graduate of any course/College Level with potential can be considered • With pleasing personality

Executive Secretary
Female, single, 21-30 years old • At least 5'2" in height • Graduate of Business Administration or Secretarial Course • At least 2 years experience as executive secretary • Computer literate • Proficient in making business letters • With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé with recent 2x2 picture in any of our branches near you.

SM NORTH EDSA	SM MEGAMALL	SM SOUTHMALL	SM CENTERPOINT
2nd Floor	Bldg. B 3rd Floor	Lower Ground Floor	3rd Floor
Near Cinema 1,2,3,4	Beside Car Park	Near Food Court	In Front of Bingo Bonanza

SM FAIRVIEW	SM MANILA	SM PAMPANGA
Lower Ground Floor	Lower Ground Floor	Second Floor
In Front of Surplus Shop	In Front of Surplus Shop	Near Cinema 4,5,6

EXPORTER – MANUFACTURER
is in urgent need of:

Product Design Head
- ✓ 25-40 years
- ✓ Must have a degree in Interior Design or Fine Arts
- ✓ With at least 5 years experience in designing decorative furnishings
- ✓ Experience with classical European style is a must

Production Clerk
- ✓ Female, 21-26 years
- ✓ Graduate of any 4–year course
- ✓ With prior experience in a manufacturing company
- ✓ Computer literate

Marketing Assistant
- ✓ 21-30 years
- ✓ Graduate of any 4-year Marketing / Business – related course
- ✓ Intelligent, aggressive, resourceful, fluent in verbal and written English
- ✓ Able to handle multiple accounts under tight deadlines
- ✓ Excellent opportunity to experience working with international clients
- ✓ Highly effective in coordinating between client and company

Antiques As Accents, Inc.
1 Narra St. corner Kalayaan, Marikina Heights, Marikina City
Tel # 942-4786 / Telefax: 948-8254

JOB / POSITION	QUALIFICATION	REMARKS
INT'L FREIGHT FORWARDING **ASST. MANAGER** (M/F) **MARKETING / OPERATION**	3-5 YEARS EXP. IN INT'L FREIGHT FORWARDING WORK	• ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE 20 TO 30 YEARS OLD, COLLEGE GRADUATE, FLUENT IN ORAL AND WRITTEN ENGLISH AND COMPUTER LITERATE. • APPLICANTS SHOULD SEND THEIR RESUME WITH 2X2 PHOTO NOT LATER THAN MAY 3, 2002 TO: **DRACO INT'L CORPORATION** **#1006, TAIPAN PLACE, 10TH F EMERALD AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY** **or E-MAIL:** **incotra22@hanmail.net** **tel. no. (02) 632-1785/ 1787**
TRAVEL / TOUR **OPERATION STAFF** (F)	2-3 YEARS EXP. IN INT'L AIRLINES/ HOTEL/TOUR WORK	
TRADING **TECHNICAL ASST.** (M/F) **MARKETING COORDINATOR** (M/F) **ACCOUNTING STAFF** (F) **SECRETARY** (F) **GRAPHIC ARTIST** (M/F)	3-5 YEARS EXP IN SYS ANALYSIS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT/ COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR 3-5 YEARS EXP IN ELECTRONICS BUSINESS / ELECTRONICS COURSE GRADUATE 3-5 YEARS EXP. IN GENERAL ACCOUNTING WORK 2-3 YEARS EXPERIENCE 5-7 YEARS EXP. IN GRAPHIC ARTS	

TIRED OF THE STRESS THAT CITY LIVING BRINGS?

Here's an opportunity to relocate in ***Northern Luzon.***
Join our progressive company as we expand our operations.

JOIN US AS:

FINANCE MANAGER
- Male / Female; 35-45 years old
- CPA; with MBA units preferred
- With at least 6-8 years experience in retail or in a similar industry
- Excellent oral & written communication skills

MIS ADMINISTRATOR
- Male / Female; 30-40 years old
- Graduate of any Computer related course
- With at least 5 years experience in retail or in a similar industry
- Must have extensive knowledge on computer programming, systems design and analysis
- Must have at least 1 year experience in Information Technology environment as Systems Analyst/ Programmer or Networking Staff

PERSONNEL OFFICER/SUPERVISOR
- Male / Female; 30-40 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course; preferably Psychology
- With at least 3-5 years experience
- Above average oral and written communication skills
- Adept in all aspects of HR work to include recruitment, compensation & benefits, training, employee relations

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Male / Female; 35-45 years old
- CPA; with MBA units preferred
- With at least 5 years experience in retail or in a similar industry
- Above average oral and written communication skills

COMMISSARY OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Male / Female; 30-40 years old
- Food Technology Graduate / HRM / Nutrition
- With at least 5 years experience in Hotel Food & Beverages Department or in a similar industry
- Should be familiar with Inventory Control Management; Purchasing
- Above average oral & written communication skills and analytical skills
- Should have a background in Financial Analysis & Production Planning Inventory

Compensation package shall be commensurate to candidate's competencies.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo by mail to:
BOX CODE MN-2034
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Classified Division
G/F Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo & Yague Sts., Makati City

Those who can, teach!!!

PHILIPPINE NAUTICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE (PNTC)
PNTC BLDG., ZONE III, LT. CANTIMBUHAN ST., POBLACION, DASMARIÑAS CAVITE
TEL. NO.: (046)-416-5111

We are spearheading the establishment of maritime and technological colleges nationwide and are in urgent need of the following personnel for our Cavite campus for school year 2002-2003.

Dean (College of Marine Transportation)
- With a master's degree and a BS in Marine Transportation or have attended IMO MC 6.09
- With at least a chief mate license
- With a least two years teaching experience

Dean (College of Marine Engineering)
- With a master's degree and a BS in Marine Engineering or have attended IMO MC 6.09
- With at least a second engineer license
- With at least two years teaching experience

Dean for Student Affairs
- With a master's degree and a BS in either Marine Transportation or Marine Engineering

Instructors (Marine Engineering and Marine Transportation)
- Graduate of BS Marine Engineering or BS Marine Transportation
- With at least one year shipboard experience

Instructors (Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education and Computer)
- Holder of relevant bachelor's degree
- With at least one year teaching experience

Training Head for Seafarers Rating Courses
- Graduate of BS Marine Engineering or BS Marine Transportation

Training Head for Hotel and Restaurant Management for Passenger Ships
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or Hospitality Management
- With at least one year work experience in a similar capacity or managerial experience in a hotel or restaurant

Training Head for Computer Programming and Computer Network Technician Courses
- Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Has at least one year work experience in a similar capacity or managerial experience

Guidance and Admissions Officer
- Graduate of Psychology, Guidance and Counseling or Education
- With at least two years experience as Guidance Counselor

Librarian (Learning Resource Center)
- Graduate of Library Science
- With at least one year work experience in the same capacity

General Services Supervisor
- Graduate of civil, electrical or mechanical engineering
- With at least one year supervisory experience in building and equipment maintenance, safety and security

General Service Staff
- Graduate of a two-year technical-vocational course

Accounting Supervisor
- Graduate of Accounting
- With at least three years relevant experience
- With background in purchasing, payroll, cashiering, billing and collection

Accounting Clerk
- Graduate of Accounting

Personnel Staff
- Graduate of Psychology
- With background in psychological testing and personnel functions

Information Clerk (Registration)
- Graduate of Business or Liberal Arts courses
- Computer literate

Evaluation Clerk (Registration)
- Graduate of Education, Social Science or Statistics
- Can handle numerical analysis

Nurse
- Graduate of Nursing (registered)
- With at least one year relevant experience

These are very urgent requirements. Please bring the necessary certificates and documents. Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested parties may submit or mail their resume, transcript of records and 2 pcs. recent "2x2" photo to HRD, 2nd Flr., PPCHI Bldg., 1736 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City or email us at mlabingisa@yahoo.com

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO
is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals
to fill up the following vacancies:

• REGISTERED NURSES
- With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
- Must be computer literate and can work with minimum supervision;
- Experience in an HMO, insurance, pre need company an advantage but not a must;
- Successful candidates will be assigned in any of the following areas: Clark Field Pampanga (URGENT!), Makati, Quezon City, Manila, Pasig.

• MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST
- Female, must be a registered Medical Technologist;
- With at least one year related work experience and computer literate.

• MEDICAL COURSE GRADUATES
- With excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Able to relate with all levels within the organization;
- Willing to do field work if necessary;
- Must be computer literate.

• BILLING CLERK
- Female, not more than 25 years of age;
- Graduate of Business Management or B.S. Accountancy;
- Proficient in the use of M.S. Word and M.S. Excel.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Building, H.V. Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Email us at laguila@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

SALES OPERATIONS MANAGERS
- with at least five (5) years experience, preferably in the real estate industry & has worked in the same capacity
- good leadership & management skills, can design and implement an effective marketing plan
- with extensive experience in Sales Management preferably of an in-house sales force
- with excellent oral & written communication skills
- pressure-driven

SALES NETWORK MEMBERS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR IN-HOUSE SALES
- male or female
- at least five years experience in real estate selling
- an organization of sales network members (with at least 5 competent Marketing Directors and Sales Directors, each with at least 10 Sales Executives/Agents)

MARKETING DIRECTORS
- male or female
- with a ready group of sales network members (at least 5 Sales Directors, w/ 5 Sales Executives each)
- with at least three years of real estate selling experience

PROJECT SPECIALISTS
- female between 21-30 years old
- preferably single and with pleasing personality
- graduate of any business related course
- very good written and oral communication skills
- must have a positive attitude towards work, self-driven & result-oriented
- strong interpersonal skills & willing to have a rewarding career in Sales & Marketing

MOLDEX
Realty Marketing, Inc.

For more information, visit or call us at MRMI:
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner 2048
Leveriza St., Pasay City
Tels. 832-7777 / 551-2201 or
Telefax 551-0808
Ask for Lorelei or Carmel
email: mrmi@moldex.com.ph or
moldexrealty@hotmail.com

A new Travel Agency with plans to set-up branches in key cities in the Phils. and some parts of USA and Canada is in immediate need of the following:

1 RESERVATION OFFICER
1 MARKETING/BUSINESS DEV'T. OFFICER
- ☑ Female, not more than 35 years old, at least 1 year exp. in the travel business
- ☑ Preferably with existing clients (groups & individuals) and network of Sub-agents
- ☑ With potential to become Operations Manager or Branch Manager
- ☑ Customer oriented; with excellent people and org. skills
- ☑ Articulate, results-oriented, honest and hardworking

Competitive salaries, performance based incentives and career growth await successful applicants. Interested parties may apply in person or send their resumé with picture and trasncript of records to:

Suite 229 Cityland Pioneer Bldg.,
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Attention: Ms. Gia Martin (Tel. No. 747-0502)

A leading transport Company is URGENTLY in need of a dynamic assertive and mature professional to occupy the position of:

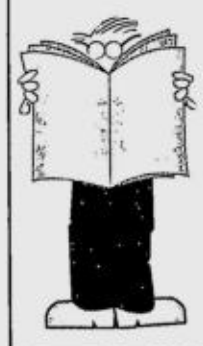
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- At least 2 years experience in Marketing and related services, Shipping experience is an advantage,
- Knowledge in ocean or air transport,
- Computer literate and willing to work hard,
- Personable and proficient in oral and written communications

Attractive compensation package awaits qualified applicants

All qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé with photo, telephone numbers & other credentials to:

The Personnel Department
mof company (subic), inc.
6th Floor, 2232 CDC Building,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Where you find the best.



JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Clark Airport Flight Support, Inc.

We are a ground handling and logistics company. We are looking for qualified personnel for the positions listed below. Central and Northern Luzon residents are preferred.

CARGO SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 8 years experience in air cargo handling and warehouse operations management. Must be computer-literate.

RAMP SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 6 years experience in aircraft ramp handling and a valid Driver's License.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Candidates must be a graduate of Mechanical Engineering; with at least 6 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair; and must have a valid Driver's License.

GSE OPERATOR

Candidates must be High School graduates preferably with at least two years of Vocational education; can operate all ground support equipment like main and lower deck loader, conveyor, tug, pushback tractor, etc; and must have a valid Driver's License.

GSE MECHANIC

Candidates must be graduates of a Technical/Vocational course; with at least 5 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair and must have a valid Driver's License.

All candidates must have good communication and interpersonal skills.
Competitive compensation packages and training programs await successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumés with 2 recent ID photos on or before 15 May 2002 to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
2/F Mary Bachrach Building, 25th corner A.C. Delgado Streets, Port Area, Manila beside the Manila Hotel
E-mail: hrd@tdgworld.com
Telephone No. 527-8888

Our company, a leading provider of quality HVAC solutions invites highly dynamic individuals for a truly challenging career to assume the following KEY POSITIONS to further strengthen our team.

IF YOU ----

- Possess a high degree of integrity and professionalism
- Are a team player and able to work under pressure
- Possess good scholastic records, preferably with post-graduate credits from a reputable institution
- Have a good command of spoken and written English
- Are meticulous, self-motivated, and computer literate
- Have a minimum of 5 years solid experience ideally gained from a multinational firm

POSITIONS AVAILABLE....

FINANCE OFFICER

The Finance Officer will be directly reporting to the President and will be responsible for the overall accounting requirements of the firm including forecasting and budgeting, cash management, timely report generation, business process functions, development and implementation of financial control procedures, government requirements preparation, liaising with suppliers, customers, auditors, and consultants, etc.

The Finance Officer must:
Be a graduate of BS Accountancy or related field
Be a Certified Public Accountant
Have proficiency in the use of accounting software
Preferably have experience in the audit function

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

The Human Resources Officer will be directly reporting to the President and will be responsible for employee administration, the recruitment process, handling employee concerns, training and development, and performance evaluation, among others.

The HR Officer must:
Be a graduate of BS Psychology or related field
Have an extensive background on Labor Laws
Have solid experience in all facets of HRD Management
Have strong leadership, motivational, and administrative skills

A competitive remuneration package and career advancement opportunities await the successful candidate. Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé, with at least 3 character references, 2x2 picture, and transcript of records to:

ULTIMATE ENERGY SYSTEMS TRADING AND SERVICES, INC.

ULTIMATE ENERGY SYSTEMS TRADING & SERVICES, INC.
Suite 3-A Silvercord Tower
803 S. Laurel St. Corner Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City
PO Box 108 Greenhills, San Juan
Tel. Nos. : 723-0631-7
Fax Nos. : 721-6137 or 723-8176
E-mail addresses : lct@pacific.net.ph • ultimate@pacific.net.ph

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UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

FACULTY OF PHARMACY (including MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY and BOTANY)

The Faculty of Pharmacy is in need of faculty members who can teach and deliver courses effectively and efficiently. Interested applicants must have a Masterate or a Doctorate degree in any of the following:

Pharmacy — ***Computer Science***
Chemistry — ***Mathematics***
Biochemistry — ***Physics***

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with supporting documents to:

Ms. Priscilla M. Torres
Asst. Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy
Dean's Office, 2nd Flr., Main Bldg.
University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila, Philippines
Telefax: (0632) 731-4040, (0632) 731-3101, local 8223.

Deadline of application is on May 03, 2002.

FORTUNE MEDICARE, INC.

A HEALTH MAINTENACE ORGANIZATION COMPANY IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL :

Ultrasound Technologist/ Medical Technologist/Nurse/ X-Ray Technologist

Male or Female/21-29 years of age/College Graduate and licensed in their own field/ Preferably single and with pleasing personality/Computer Literate

Corporate Accounts Officer

Female/21-29 years of age/College Graduate with Marketing Experience on HMO or Insurance Business/
Preferably single and with pleasing personality/Computer Literate

Underwriting Clerk

Male or Female/21-29 years of age/Graduate of any Business Course/Preferably single and with pleasing personality/Computer Literate

Trainor

Male or Female/25-29 years of age/Graduate of any Business Course with at least 1 year experienced as a Trainor/Preferably single and with pleasing personality/Computer Literate

Qualified applicants, please submit your resumé with picture and transcript of records to :

HRM Department
FORTUNE MEDICARE, INC.
3rd Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City

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spi technologies inc.
solutions for a changing world

SPI Technologies, Inc. is an industry leader in providing diversified value-added information technology (IT) services to clients all over the world.

SPI Technologies, Inc. has an established global presence, having its main production facility in Manila and marketing offices in the US, Netherlands, UK, and Germany.

With over 20 years of experience in the IT outsourcing business, SPI Technologies, Inc. takes pride in its skilled and motivated work force of Filipino IT knowledge workers led by a team of result-oriented managers in consistently delivering excellent service.

Compensation Specialist (CS)

- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
- At least 2-3 years experience in payroll processing and accounting.
- With experience in an IT or manufacturing industry.
- Adept in MS Office applications (Excel, Word).
- Familiarity with government rules and regulations on benefits/compensation administration.
- Highly organized, systematic and can work independently.
- Must possess adequate human relations skills.

Programmer Trainees (PT)

- A college degree holder preferably in Computer Science, and other computer-related courses.
- Knowledgeable in C/C++, Visual Basic, COBOL, Pascal, and other programming languages.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- New graduates are welcome to apply.

Imaging-Administrative Assistant (IAA)

- A college degree holder preferably in Computer Science, and other computer-related courses.
- With working experience in desktop publishing (Adobe Acrobat/PDF conversion).
- Must have wide knowledge of electronic graphics both color and non-color.
- Must have experience in managing projects.
- Certification in various imaging/graphics standard or tool, definitely an advantage.

Medical Transcriptionists/Trainees (MT/MTT*)

- A college degree holder preferably in Nursing, Physical Therapy, Medical Technology and other allied health courses.
- At least a year of experience in medical transcription.
- Ability to transcribe at least 60 wpm.
- Excellent hearing acuity and listening skills.
- Ability to operate word processing equipment, computers, dictation and transcription equipments.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- New graduates are welcome to apply*.

Production & Planning Specialist (PPS)

- A college degree holder preferably in Math, Statistics, Industrial Engineering, and Economics.
- At least 6 months experience in a manufacturing industry.
- With above average mathematical ability.
- Knowledgeable in basic computer operations, spreadsheet, and word processors.

Data Technician (DT)/Quality Control Inspector (QCI)

- A college degree holder preferably in Computer Science, and other computer-related courses.
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Packages (PhotoShop, Acrobat), Windows Explorer and Salamander.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- Willing to work in any shift and on a per project basis.

Document Analysts/Indexers (DA/IX)

- A college degree holder preferably in Computer Science, and other computer-related courses.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- Willing to work in any shift and on a per project basis.

All positions have the ff. qualifications:

- Must possess good command of English in both oral and written communication.
- With above average scholastic record.
- Knowledgeable in basic computer and internet applications.

SPI - RECRUITMENT OFFICE
2nd floor Skyfreight Bldg. C NAIA Road
corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City 1700
E-mail: recruitment@spitech.com
Fax No: 851-7092 loc. 211
WWW: http://www.spitech.com
Please indicate position code on the résumé

BISMAC

SUPERVISOR/SYSTEMS ANALYST

- ☑ Fast learner, willing to travel and can work long hours
- ☑ At least one (1) year experience in supervising programmers
- ☑ Must have an in-depth knowledge in Systems Analysis and Design
- ☑ Proficient in database concept and with one year experience in VB6 (ADO, RDO, DAO), SQL Server
- ☑ Good understanding of Point of Sales Systems is an advantage
- ☑ Must possess good communication skills

SALES EXECUTIVE

- ☑ Male or female, 21 years old and above
- ☑ Graduate of any business or computer course
- ☑ Excellent communication skills and willing to learn
- ☑ Knowledge in selling POS/ECR machines, banking equipment or selling to Government Accounts an advantage

Interested applicants may send their Application Letter, 2x2 picture and Curriculum Vitaé or may apply personally at:

BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
Carson Building, Orense corner Del Carmen Streets
Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 882-3355 to 64

E-mail: bismac@bismac.com.ph
(NO ATTACHMENT PLEASE)

A fast growing company engaged in the importation & distribution of consumer products with leading international brands urgently needs additional personnel as follows

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of Marketing
- Well-organized, systematic, diligent and can work with minimum supervision
- Able to meet deadlines & willing to render overtime work
- Proficient in WINDOWS, POWERPOINT & ADOBE
- Proficient in both oral & written communications

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

For Industrial & Foodservice

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate, preferably Food Technology or Chemical Engineering
- Personable, resourceful, aggressive & a team player
- With good customer relations skills
- With at least 1 year selling experience preferably consumer products
- Can communicate well in English both oral & written

Interested & Qualified applicants may apply in person with their comprehensive resumé, latest 2x2 photo & transcript of records from Mondays to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM at
420 Urbiztondo St., Binondo, Manila Tel. No. 2418555
Applicants with incomplete requirements will not be prioritized.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN/ ELECTRICIAN (Code: ETE)

- Male, at least 25 years old
- Industrial Electronics or BSEE or ECE graduate
- Knowledgeable in the repair and programming of PLC and other Micro-processor based equipments
- Knowledgeable in the repair and maintenance of various electronic controllers and electrical equipments
- Knowledge of instrumentation and control will be advantageous
- With at least 3 years work experience in related field
- Must possess good moral character

LABORATORY CHEMIST (Code: LC-AD)

- Female, B.S. Chemistry or Chemical Engineering graduate
- Not more than 30 years old and willing to work in shifting basis
- With at least 2 years work experience in fabric dyeing
- Must possess good moral character

Residents of Kaloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Meycauayan, Valenzuela and Bulacan will be given preference.

Interested parties may apply personally or send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, recent picture and other credentials to:

SUN FORTUNE, INCORPORATED
(SUNRISE TEXTILE MILL CORP.)
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
229 I. Fernando St.,
Malanday, Valenzuela City

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INQUIRER

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JOB MARKET

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macare

Helping the hands that heal .....

Living up to its commitment to Patient Health Care. MACARE for the past Twenty-one Years, has provided the needs of the Medical Profession and Health Care Outlets for Quality Diagnostic and Medical Products.

As the appointed Exclusive Distributor in the Philippines, our roster of prestigious Principals, whose World renowned products are Market Leaders in their respective Product Specialization, include the following U.S. based companies: Johnson & Johnson ORTHO Clinical Diagnostics; COOK Medical Devices; PALL Blood Filters; HAEMONETICS Apheresis System and DALE Critical Care Products.

For our Expansion Program we have an urgent need for:

CLINICAL SPECIALIST

The ideal candidate must be Eloquent. Articulate and Presentable, and must be able to effectively represent the Distributor Company.

He or She is expected to come out with effective Product Training Programs for our PALL and HAEMONETICS Products and should be able to handle regular Product Presentations and In-Service Training for Hospital Officials and End-Users.

QUALIFICATIONS :

- Male or Female, between the ages of 25 to 40 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Nursing or Medical Technology and a Board Passer
- Presently holding the position of Section / Unit Head or equivalent Supervisory position in a Hospital or Healthcare Company
- Must be proficient in driving and has a valid Driver's License

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

The MR that we are looking must be a Good Administrator of Accounts; self-reliant, responsible, and an Achiever when it comes to Sales Quota Achievement, Collection of Accounts and Implementation of the Company's various Marketing Activities. Proficiency in English is also a must since he/she is expected to do In-Service Training.

QUALIFICATIONS :

- Male or Female, between the ages of 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Nursing, Medical Technology or any related Field in Science
- Must be proficient in driving and has a valid Driver's License

SERVICE ENGINEERS

On call 24-Hours a Day, he will be responsible for Troubleshooting, Maintenance and Repair of the Company's Diagnostic and Medical Equipment that are installed in various hospitals and laboratories nationwide.

QUALIFICATIONS :

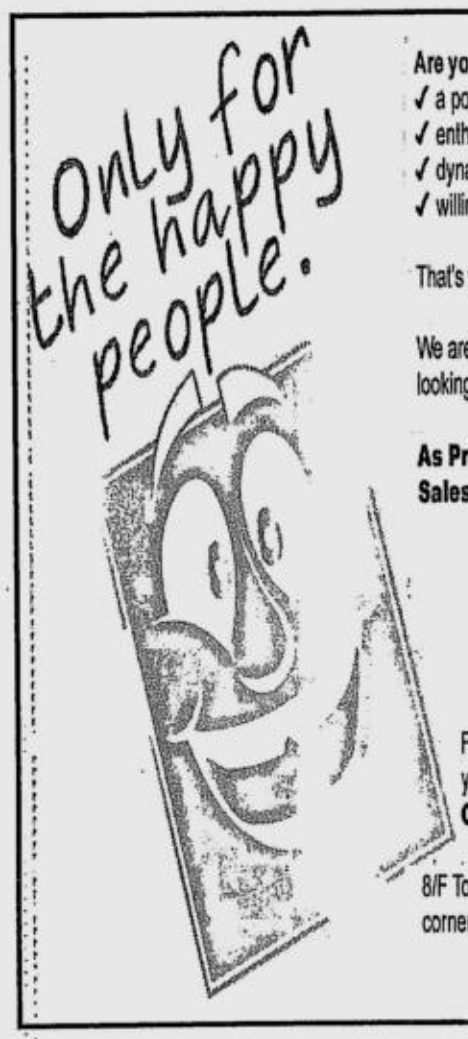
- Male, between the ages of 21 to 35 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Electronics & Communications Engineering
- Preferably with experience in servicing Medical Equipment

OUR REMUNERATION PACKAGE IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE. Aside from an above Industry Monthly Basic Salary and Sales Commission, successful candidates can look forward to a Mid-Year, 14th and 15th Month Performance Bonus; Meal and Gasoline Allowance and other Sales Incentive Rewards. In addition, numerous Fringe Benefits and other attractive Perks also await our new team Players, such as FOREIGN TRIPS for Regular and Advance Training : Participation to the Company Subsidized CAR PLAN PROGRAM and Medical, Hospitalization and Accident Insurance Benefit.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may submit their RESUMÉ with a recent photo and TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS at:

MACARE MEDICALS, INC.
No. 67 A. Luna St., Project 4, Quezon City, 1109
Tel. Nos. 913-4201-02
Fax No : 913-5937 E-Mail : macare@skylnet.net

The Philippine's MARKET LEADER
In Blood Transfusion Medicine .....



Are you:
✓ a positive person?
✓ enthusiastic?
✓ dynamic?
✓ willing and able to learn and apply effective ideas?

That's what we're looking for in employees.

We are a **multi-billion US dollar corporation** looking for highly energetic individuals to join our team.

As Promo Officers, Telemarketing Officers or Sales Consultants, you will get the following:
✓ huge commissions
✓ basic salary
✓ cash incentives
✓ benefits
✓ FREE exceptional training

Flash your best smile and **bring, fax or mail** your resumé and recent 2x2 photo to our **Corporate Headquarters:**

8/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City • Fax 755-1518

PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES

NEEDS:

2 FINANCE ASSISTANTS
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel & Word
- Accounting major, preferably CPA
- Experience is an advantage
- Male or Female, not more than 27 years old, preferably single

CARGO REPRESENTATIVE
- Male or Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any four (4) year course
- Work experience is an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel & Word

STATION LOADERS
- Male, not more than 25 years old
- At least 2nd year college
- Work experience is an advantage

For Finance Assistant, please hand-carry your resumé with recent 2x2 picture and school transcript of records and for Cargo Representative and Station Loaders, please send/mail your resumé with recent 2x2 picture and school transcript of records not later than April 30, 2002 at **PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES, INC.** at 2nd floor International Cargo Terminal Bldg., NAIA Complex, Pasay City.

Get your career off the ground.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

ADT
Security for Life™

DEALER DEVELOPMENT STAFF (2)
Graduate of any four year course.
Must have a field sales background.
With experience in handling dealers.
Can conduct presentations, sales meetings and the like.

SALES TRAINERS (2)
Graduate of any four year course.
With experience in conducting sales training.
Must have a field sales background.

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS REPRESENTATIVE (20)
With field sales / marketing experience.
Willing to undergo training.

Send your resumé at:

2561 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. No. 562-8926

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING AT MAKATI OFFICE

PS Bank Tower
Suite 2104, 21st Floor
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED:
- ☑ College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- ☑ Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- ☑ Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- ☑ Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training & can work at once

THEN YOU DESERVE:
- ☑ A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME
- ☑ Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- ☑ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

See us in your proper business attire with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on *April 29, 30, May 1 & 2, 2002 (Monday - Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.* bring extra ID and the clipping of this ad. (Presently employed and enrolled need not apply).

Need to earn extra income? Are you outgoing and adventurous? Conduct interviews for worthwhile projects!

Looking for:

Interviewers

(per project basis)

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, 20-30 years old
- College level or College graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Honest and Dependable
- Pleasing, outgoing personality
- Willing to work on field
- No work experience required

Comprehensive training will be given.

Apply in person with resumé and current photo at:

Suite 603 Richmonde Plaza
21 San Miguel Avenue corner
Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Look for **Khor**

ACES, INC.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of Marketing course or any Business related course
- Male/female, 22-35 years old
- Possesses excellent written & oral communication skills
- Preferably can speak / write Mandarin / Cantonese
- Minimum of 1 year work experience in MARKETING
- Innovative in meeting customer requirements

RM. 301/302 EXECUTIVE BLDG. CENTRE,
GIL PUYAT AVE. COR. MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
TEL. #8952850/8952802/8970927 FAX# 8996111

BRING REQUIREMENTS: SSS#, TIN#, NBI & BRGY. CLEARANCE; PICTURE (2x2)

A NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMPANY ENGAGED IN HIGH-END FASHION RETAILING IS IN URGENT NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO FILL UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SALES SUPERVISORS
SENIOR SALES CONSULTANTS
- Preferably female; at least 5'2" in height
- Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Sales experience with a fashion retail outlet will be an advantage
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be computer literate

SALES CONSULTANTS
- Preferably female; at least 5'2" in height
- Between 21-28 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be service-oriented
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays

FINANCE OFFICER
- Preferably female
- Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Accounting/CPA
- Must possess an analytical mind
- Must have an impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be very flexible and willing to do other jobs e.g. HR and administrative work
- Must be computer literate

ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES
- Female
- 30 years old and above
- College graduate with a degree in Human Resources Management preferred
- Masters degree or background in Law an advantage
- At least 5 years work experience in Personnel and Administration

FINANCE
- Female
- 30 years old and above
- CPA
- Masters degree an advantage
- At least 5 years work experience as Finance Manager

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Female
- 30 years old and above
- College graduate (Business Management or Business Administration, Marketing, Economics)
- Masters degree an advantage
- At least 5 years work experience as Operations Manager, specifically in the area of mall and tenant management
- Good public relations and pleasing personality

SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Male or female
- 30 years old and above
- College graduate (with background in computer systems and information technology)
- At least 5 years work experience as Management Information Systems Manager or IT Manager
- Experience with mall operations and POS systems an advantage

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

SECOND FLOOR, OROSA BUILDING
1010 MERALCO AVENUE, PASIG CITY
(Infront of Department of Education)

URGENTLY NEEDED

MARKETING MANAGER
BRAND MANAGER
SALES AGENTS-INSTITUTIONAL
Metro Manila, Provincial (BOOKING/EXTRUCK)
ACCOUNTING CLERK
COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
ENCODER/COMPUTER STAFF
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FOOD TECHNOLOGIST
TRUCK MECHANIC

- Applicants must have experience on related field.
- Preferably with Chinese communication skill.

Please apply personally at:

FOODWORLD MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
292 8TH Avenue (East)
corner 10th Street, Kalookan City
(Between 9:00 a.m. to 12noon only)

I.H.M.E.S.
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL
SEEKS

FULL and PART TIME LECTURERS
for its
Hotel and Restaurant Management Programme

Hoteliers with international experience in the fields of Human Resources, Food & Beverage, Rooms Division and Languages preferred.

Interested applicants may forward their resumé to:

E-mail: **ihmesmanila@yahoo.com**
or call **Carol Pido** at **820-9181; 825-5147**

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Scandinavia-Trend / Design Products

SUMMER JOBS / OJT's Makati

- Your have education in Sales and Marketing
- You are interested in high-end design products
- You are between 20-30 years old
- Must have a mobile phone
- You will have a chance to earn commission and learn

To apply:

Send us your resumé and ID picture
A cover letter telling us about yourself and how you would sell high-end design from Denmark

Send your application to **Ms. Gitte Munk:**
gitte@scandinavia.trend.com

ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING CORPORATION

URGENTLY NEEDED...

SURVEYOR/GEODETIC ENGINEER

- Licensed Surveyor/Geodetic Engineer
- Min. five (5) years in all kinds of surveying works
- Computer literate
- Proficient in survey data computation, carries survey information, maps and land development, measures land features by using instrument and perform project site setting, building location and leveling.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING:
Licensed Electrical Engr, Licensed Mechanical Engr, Field Administrative Officer, Field Accountant, Cashier, Payroll Clerk, Lead Men and Team for Assorted Construction Trade, Mechanics, Light and Heavy Equipment Operators, Truck Drivers, Finishing and Rough Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, Painters.

Interview Date:
April 22-26, 2002, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Interested applicants may apply personally with their comprehensive resumé, cert. of employment and recent 2x2 colored photo to Office of VP Operations at 2nd Floor, CUP Building, A. Roces cor. Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City, Philippines.

Pinnacle Computer Service

Computer Sales* Internet* Infranet* Networking* Maintenance Services* System Integration* PABX

Computer Service Hotline: **323-8888**

IMMEDIATE HIRING for Expansion!

Computer Technicians

- At least 2-3 years Tech support experience needed
- Hardworking, willing to do Field Service
- Must know Computer Assembly and Repair
- Computer Networking and Cabling

Electronic Technicians

- Printer, Monitor, Fax, UPS, Computer Repair
- 2-3 years Experience is necessary

Computer Sales Executives

- 2 years Experience in Computer Sales
- Aggressive, Smart, Willing to travel

Accounting Staff - Female, Accounting Grad
Submit your applications to: (Valid until May 2, 2002)
e-mail: **angie@pinnacleasia.com**
Mail to: HR Manager; **50 8th Avenue West, Caloocan City**
Attractive compensation commensurate to experience qualifications and productivity, with Incentives, Insurance

---

Schumacher™ LEATHERCRAFT

Is looking for experienced, dynamic and highly motivated individuals to promote our products and to grow with the company. We need a select team of 6 qualified

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

Every one of them is preferably:

- With experience in direct/retail selling environemnt
- With experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing, assertive and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character

Interested Parties may apply personally at 95-E A. Lake Street, San Juan. Mondays and Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. only. For appointment, you may get in touch with Ms. Cecille Reyes at 726-5228. Please bring resumé with 2x2 picture.

TEXWIPE PHILIPPINES, INC.

Our company is a business unit of ITW, a multinational Fortune 200 company. We are a leading manufacturer of Contamination Control Products, globally distributed to Semiconductor, Disk Drive, Aerospace and Pharmaceutical Industries. Our quality driven and high-spirited team is looking for:

ISO ENGINEER

- With at least 2 years experience in direct implementation and maintenance of company wide quality management system based on ISO 9000:2000 standards
- Must have relevant exposure as Deputy QMR or Certified ISO Auditor
- An excellent team player, with good communication skills
- Graduate of any Engineering course, proficient in computer operation

The successful candidate can look forward to a competitive compensation package. Qualified applicants may submit their resume personally or via fax or e-mail to :

TEXWIPE PHILIPPINES, INC.
4 Circuit St., Light Industry & Science Park I, Cabuyao, Laguna
rsuniga@texwipe.com
Fax # (049) 543-0241

PhilBizInfo

In association with D&B Decide with Confidence

A Solution Company using ICT for:

- Commercial & Consumer Information Services
- Receivables Management

Has an opening for:

BUSINESS ANALYSTS

Responsible for gathering and analyzing of information (commercial and consumer). Must be willing to go on field work and familiar with the ins and outs of Metro Manila.

TELE-COLLECTORS

Responsible for consumer collection and with at least six (6) months relevant work experience.

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- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ With driver's license

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- ☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

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- ☑ With pleasing personality and clear complexion
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- ☑ With good communication skills
- ☑ Preferably near Alabang area

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- ☑ Good in oral communication skills

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- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

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PROCUREMENT ASSISTANT (01-ProAst)
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HRD ASSISTANT (01-TrnAst)
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sunday
INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
magazine
April 28, 2002

His problems behind him, PBA strongman Asi Taulava is savoring family life, and looking forward to bearing the national colors in the next Asian Games

Asi Unbound

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

IN BASKETBALL, rebounding is an endless test of resilience, a constant questioning of one's ability to get back up after hitting the ground. Perhaps no one understands this relentless battle against gravity better than Asi Taulava.

If there's anyone who seems physically engineered to be dominant, it's the 6'9" Asi with his amazing agility and imposing build. In person, the man PBA fans know as "The Rock" has a physique leaner than one expects, with jackhammer arms and biceps Popeye would kill for. With his blonde hairdo and tattoos, Asi seemed like a sure bet for hardcourt stardom. But the game plan didn't work out as everyone expected.

In the early days, Asi had let slip the fans' adulation and a megabucks contract. "All the fame, all that money I never had before, I just didn't know how to handle it," the 28-year-old basketball star admits today. Asi Taulava's story is one of great promise, deep disappointment and an unexpected chance at redemption.

HE made "Fil-Tongan" part of our basketball vocabulary. Born Pauli (the "i" is silent) Asi Taulava, Jr., on March 2, 1974 in Tofoa, Tonga to Paul Taulava, Sr., and Pauline Mateaki Hernandez, Asi was the third of five children, notably the tallest child. "I was small when I was young," Asi remembers. A self-confessed "mama's boy," Asi grew up in Los Angeles and spent many summers in Honolulu. He didn't discover sports right away and began playing American football before discovering basketball. "I began playing as a guard until I was in ninth grade." It was then that Asi grew from 5'7" to an astonishing 6'5"—and kept growing. His mother advised him to stick to basketball because of his size, and Asi soon learned how to use his physical gifts properly.

He believes he became a serious player during his stint at California State University at Bakersfield, where he averaged 7.6 points in his second year. Feeling that the coach wasn't using him properly, Asi transferred to Brigham Young University in Hawaii and promptly averaged 13.5 points and six rebounds. Asi then decided to turn pro, playing as an import in Brazil and Sweden. In 1996, Asi came to the Philippines for the first time as part of a visiting discovery team for the Philippine Basketball League. Asi had to return to Sweden to honor his contract but already intended to return to the Philippines. "I've seen how much they love basketball here. Being a basketball fanatic, I've seen how different it is from the States because people love their basketball more here." He came back in 1998, taking the PBL by storm with the Blu Detergent Kings. After one year with the PBL, Asi moved on to the big leagues,

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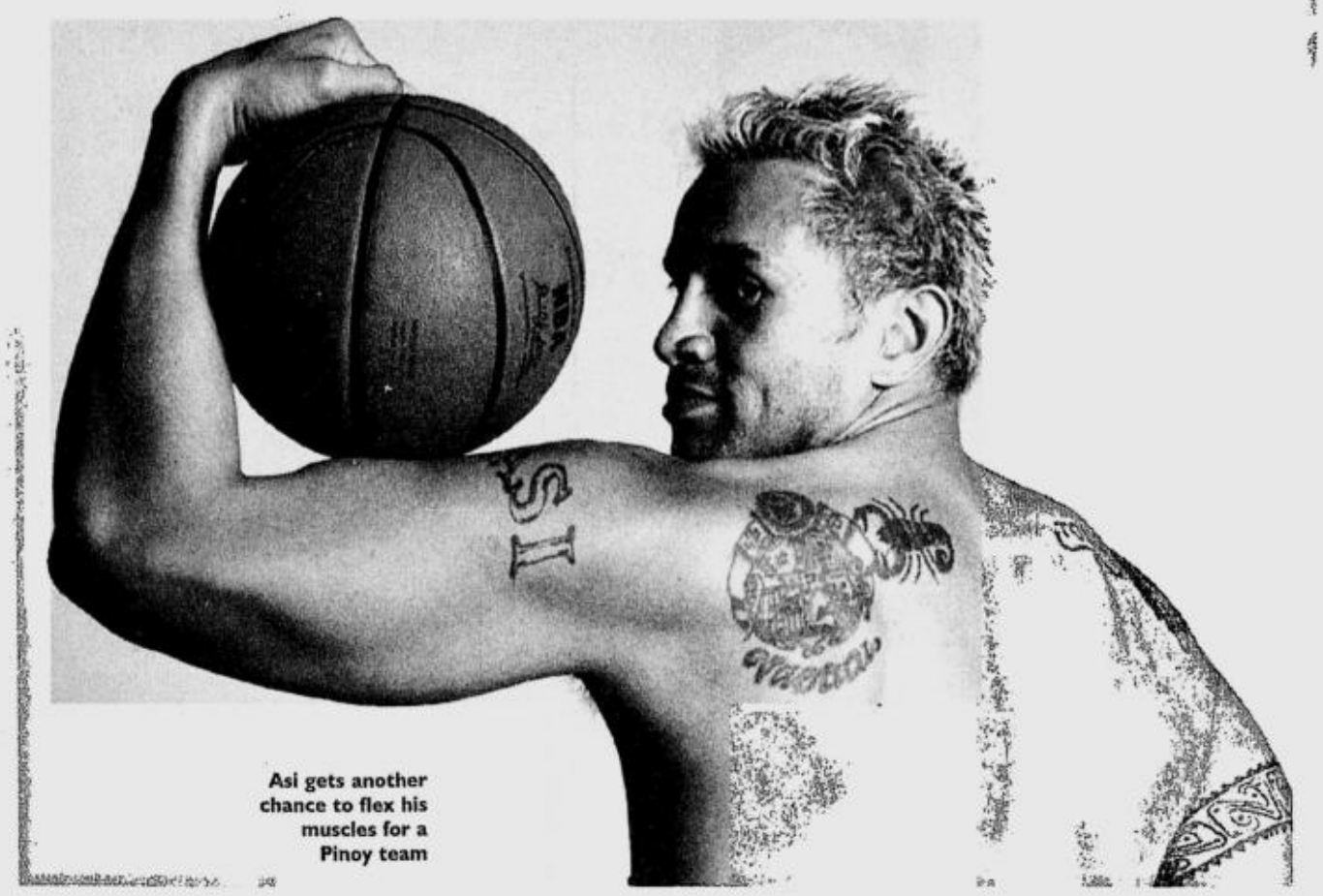
Asi...*from page 1*

signing up as the major acquisition of the Mobiline franchise, immediately becoming one of the PBA's most popular players and transforming Mobiline into a powerhouse team. Asi rampaged through low post defenses like a bleached and brown version of The Incredible Hulk in hi-tops. Asi was so popular that his dyed blonde hair (which he first dyed to match that of his teammates in Sweden) was copied by thousands of Filipino fans.

INQUIRER Sports Editor Al S. Mendoza says that Asi was clearly marked for stardom. "He has the height, the muscle and the moves. For a six-foot-nine guy like him, it's a wonder that he can carry himself with the lightness of a feather," Mendoza says. "His rugged looks, coupled with his barreling drives, are surefire ingredients to induce mass hysteria."

But after an impressive rookie year, Asi slowed down due to injury and distractions the next year. "I wasn't used to all the pressure of having an offense move through me and I broke down. I also didn't know how to handle the media." Though he remained extremely popular with the fans, Asi was dogged by questions about his weight and conditioning, as he weighed almost 300 pounds at that time. There were questions about his dedication and priorities. He was partying without end: "I would be the first one on the scene and the last one to leave." He admits to having a drinking problem at the time. "I just didn't want to work at it anymore," Asi confesses. "I just lost the drive for basketball."



Asi gets another chance to flex his muscles for a Pinoy team

Then came the legal troubles. In 1999, Asi's documents identifying him as Filipino were questioned in a lengthy inquiry closely followed by the entire basketball-mad nation. The Bureau of Immigration and Deportation eventually declared Asi ineligible to play and blacklisted him. It was a crushing blow. "I thought my career was over. I had to get more documents to prove my mom's citizenship. I actually walked away from everything." It was made harder because Asi would have to leave behind his wife. "I was married secretly but what was worst was that she was pregnant at the time."

Asi first met Anna May Corveau in 1999 when she was a candidate during the Bb. Pilipinas pageant and he was one of the judges. After the pageant, the two became friends. Soon they were going out and falling in love. In 2000, Anna May told Asi she was pregnant and he married her in civil rites shortly after. It was a difficult decision, but Asi says he "had to leave to show I respected the law." After leaving Anna May with enough funds in the meantime, Asi promised to come back and take care of her.

All that was weighing on The Rock when he left the country. "I was mad I had to leave. I was trying to drink my problems away." A distraught and drunk Asi left the country on May 11, 2000. "I'll come back," he told reporters tearfully.

AFTER leaving the country in search of more documents, Asi also took the opportunity to visit his mother in LA and his father in Tonga. "I spent three months there, and he gave me a taste of real life." Disenchanted with basketball, Asi didn't want to play anymore. But his father had different ideas, taking him out to his farm. "He put me to work there, scooping dirt with a big shovel and stuff like that for three months," Asi recalls with disbelief, "I got so dark and I finally got the point." The farming stint made Asi realize that he needed to go back to what he loved. "My father did the best thing a father could do in that situation: he made me want to play again."

Asi got back into shape with a vengeance, hooking up with the San Diego Wildfire of the new American Basketball Association, averaging 6.5 points and 5.9 rebounds in 22 games. "I was just happy to be playing for a team again." While Asi was playing with the Wildfire, Anna May gave birth to a baby girl on January 23, 2001. "I was in shock when I found out. I couldn't picture myself as a dad," says Asi of Asianna Louise whom he has only seen in photographs.

After his ABA stint, Asi was preparing to leave to play as an import in Korea when he sent more documents to Anna May. Just as he was about to sign up with a Korean team, Asi found out that he had been removed from the immigration blacklist. "I just scratched everything and came back," he smiles. "I didn't come back to play basketball, I came back to see my daughter."

Asi arrived quietly in the Philippines in June, 2001. As soon as he arrived, he motored over to Anna May's place and finally saw his four-month-old baby. "Oh, that was the best feeling in the world, walking in and seeing this little baby who looked just like me."

More surprises awaited him. "I wasn't expecting to play because I was just making plans with my wife and my daughter." To his amazement, he found out a week after his arrival that he had been cleared to play by the Department of Justice. Asi returned to a warm reception from PBA fans as he suited up for the Talk & Text Phone Pals anew. "I was surprised by how openly the fans welcomed me back."

Many were shocked at how much weight he had lost—from his old playing weight of 278 pounds, Asi lost 60 pounds. "I lost that much because I was playing small forward in the States, a different position." Asi soon regained his form and once again domi

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The Cover Image PBA strongman Asi Taulava is back, with a new family, a new outlook —and new game
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

TOTI'S VISION

I WANT to commend Toti Dalmacion's vision. I hope the rest of the Filipinos are as forward-looking and open to other perspectives as Toti. The world and life in general have a lot more to offer beyond our myopic, parochial vision not just in music but in all fields—especially visual arts, architecture, fashion, food, etc. We, Filipinos, have been known to pioneer in a lot of fields in Asia. Perhaps we should stop being the great copycat of western culture and mere purveyors of Western taste in Asia, but among the trendsetters in the world, having had a better grasp of the best of both Western and Eastern worlds.

RESTY S. ODON
rsodon@edsamail.com.ph

LOOKING FOR FILM FOLK

I WOULD like to suggest that you feature Mr. Nick Deocampo or Mowelfund in a future issue of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine. If you already have featured them, kindly tell me the date and number of the issue so I can read them if allowed in your offices. Thank you very much.

Cesar B Chuatico, Jr.
cesarb888@edsamail.com.ph

SIM *featured Mr. Nick Deocampo back in February 23, 1997 (***SIM** *Vol. 12, no. 51) . –Ed.*

Erratum: In the cover photograph of Ms. Nanette Medved (**SIM**, April 21, 2002), we inadvertently failed to credit BERN DUEÑAS for Ms. Medved's hairstyle and makeup. **SIM** regrets the error.

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!
SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip! – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

Poetry

Kidapawan in my heart

(The movements of my tribe climb
up or down the mountains, but always
in the mountains, when un-moved, as eagles
dwell the habitat of clouded peaks.
we are formed from the voices of forests,
and have no speech. Our eyes
keep the secrets of our lips, the colors
birds fill with celebration
the beginnings of our songs.)

Imagine all the names I have called
you, all the figures I have shaped
to design your face, all the memories
that never arrive because
they are not past, all the trying
to recognize what would please
you, all the windows I have gazed at
looking for reflections of you,
all the words never written to you
who are almost invisible,
chanced upon, vanishing,
and sometimes re-appearing perhaps
the same and not the same,
walking my landscape
Through separate evenings, when
only you can take the stars
or give me the moon, while I assemble
all the reasons why I love
you, this way. Still.

Rita B. Gadi

Sa Pusod

Ikaw ang dagat sa puso kong maalon sa pagsinta,
laot na di maarok ng pagsuyong puno ng bakawan; layag kang
nagpapalaya sa amihang may hatid na ligayang
itatawag sa ating suyuan sa
gabing ito na wala ka
Mahal ko. Ay!

Jimmuel C. Naval

Artwatch
By Eric S. Caruncho

Bencab's Woman

ROGER MARGALLO

TRANGE that of all the women in Bencab's life—his partner and soul mate Annie, his former wife Caroline (with whom he formed one of the swinging '60s' hippest couples), daughters Mayumi and Jasmine, and numerous friends and lovers who shall remain nameless here (you know who you are)—the one he has chosen to immortalize on canvas is a decrepit ragpicker named Sabel.

"She was what you might call a 'bag lady'," recalls Bencab. "I used to see her through the window of our house in Bambang. She collected all kinds of plastic and slept in the streets. She would come to the house and ask for water or food. I found it interesting to do paintings and drawings of her."

Bencab did his first drawings of Sabel in 1966, but over the years the haunting figure, shrouded in rags and plastic sheets, assumed a kind of iconic significance for the artist, her madness and destitution echoing that of such other tragic figures in the Filipino imagination as Sisa.

"She reflected a lot on our culture – anarchic but at the same time a survivor."

Sabel also became something of a touchstone for the artist's work, recurring in many paintings done at different times in his life.

"She's like a transition figure," explains Bencab. "Whenever I get stuck on a subject, I go back to Sabel and she gets transformed – sometimes abstract, sometimes realistic, sometimes Japanese-y."

So important is Sabel to the artist's creative life that Bencab has chosen to celebrate his 60th birthday with "Homage to Sabel," an exhibit of 25 portraits showing the subject in various guises: the transfiguration of the bag lady.

"Bencab's celebration of Sabel is an amalgam of figuration and abstraction," writes the critic Cid Reyes in the show's catalogue. "The artist's familiarity with the subject yields a countenance of varying moods, by turns beatific and demented...Presented as a solitary figure, stripped of all the ragged surroundings from which she has emerged, Sabel retains a grace and nobility. It is no wonder that, even with such extended passage of time, this tragic shadowy figure has kept a talismanic attraction for Bencab."

"I guess I owe it all to Sabel," says the artist, who shows no signs of slowing down at 60.

"This is the busiest time of my life," he adds. Thanks to a healthy, low-stress lifestyle, the Baguio-based Bencab also lays the myth of the male menopause to rest. "At least not in my case," he laughs. "Fortunately, I'm still active."

In more ways than one: apart from one international exhibit after another – next stop, Bali – Bencab's energies spill over into numerous projects. At the moment he is working on a series of portraits of Filipino writers, done from life. He has done such literary luminaries as N.V.M. Gonzales, Nick Joaquin, Gemino Abad, Krip Yuson, F. Sionil Jose and Cristina Hidalgo, and hopes to complete the series by combining the portraits with facsimiles of the writers' manuscript pages.

"Things just fall into my lap," he explains. "I guess when you're established and in demand, the more you're challenged."

Bencab is also active in Tamaw-an Village, an artists' community he helped establish in Baguio. Now that the community has built up its own momentum, the elder statesman of the Baguio arts scene is ready to turn to more personal pursuits.

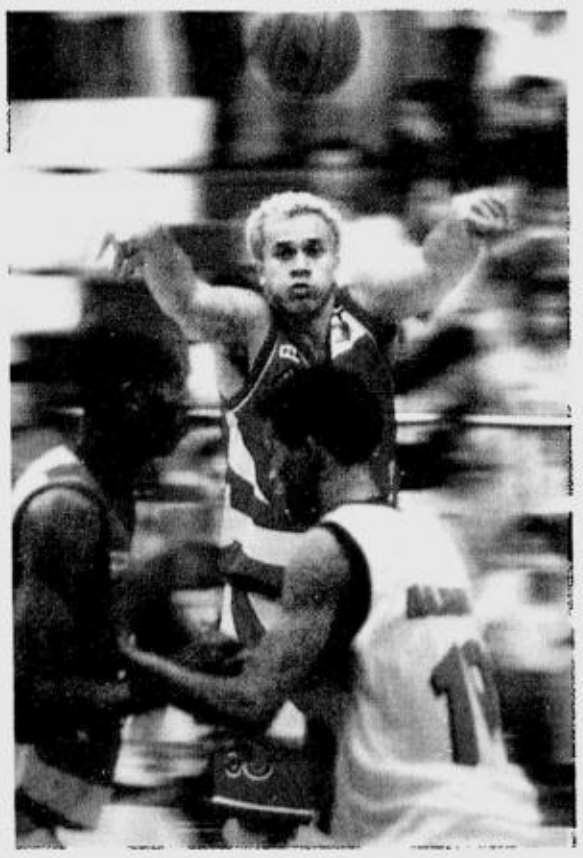
He envisions a more rustic, contemplative existence in the farm which he has begun to plant in Asin.

"Farming is more of a spiritual thing," he says. "I'm even thinking of putting a *zendo* (meditation hall) there."

For Bencab, bohemian and bon vivant, 60 is a good place to be.

"The things I used to dream of doing, through my painting, I can fulfill them."

ROMY HOMILLADA



From Incredible Bulk to lean and mean: Asi in 1999 (top) and today (left).

...from page 2

nated the court as the Phone Pals' starting center, maintaining his career averages of 18.7 points and 12.7 rebounds per game.

So it wasn't all that surprising that when the PBA announced plans to put together a formidable national team for the upcoming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, original RP team coach Ron Jacobs selected Asi to become part of the training pool. After Jacobs left the position due to health reasons, San Miguel mentor Jong Uichico took over. Philippine basketball's best were divided into two squads that would compete in the ongoing Samsung PBA Governors Cup as RP Team-Selecta and RP Team-Hapee. Asi cancelled his vacation plans to get into shape for the coming conference.

In the meantime, he headlined for Selecta, averaging 16.9 points and 13.9 rebounds per game. On April 19, Asi got a call from Uichico who told him that he had made it to the 15-man lineup of the national team bound for Busan. Asi says it was truly a great moment for him: "I'm really excited because it's an honor to be able to serve your country by playing on the national team."

Uichico believes Asi has been doing very well as part of the national pool. "I like his intensity," says the national team coach. "I like how much he wants to win. There's no question about his effort and that will go a long way in the Asian Games no matter what the score is." Uichico, however, adds that Asi would still have to make adjustments. "With his mother team, he's the go-to guy who can dominate the PBA, but he'll have a harder time dominating the Asian Games. He'll have to adjust, concentrating on making the extra effort rebounding, setting screens for his teammates and improving his 15-foot jump shot." Beyond that, Uichico says that Asi has to play under control and not let his emotions get the better of him.

ASI stands out from the crowd because of his imposing stature—and because of a sense of humor as huge as his Ford Expedition. On the court, Asi is all seismic fury, but off the court he admits to being a "goofy comedian who always has a cheesy smile on his face." Uichico laughs and adds that Asi's "a very nice guy who likes to talk a lot." Good friend and ex-Selecta guard Jimmy Alapag, who has known Asi since Jimmy was fresh out of high school, describes Asi as being both "the perfect teammate" and "a real clown."

These days, Asi looks forward to spending as much time as he can with his wife and one-year-old baby at their condominium. "I sleep a lot," he laughs.

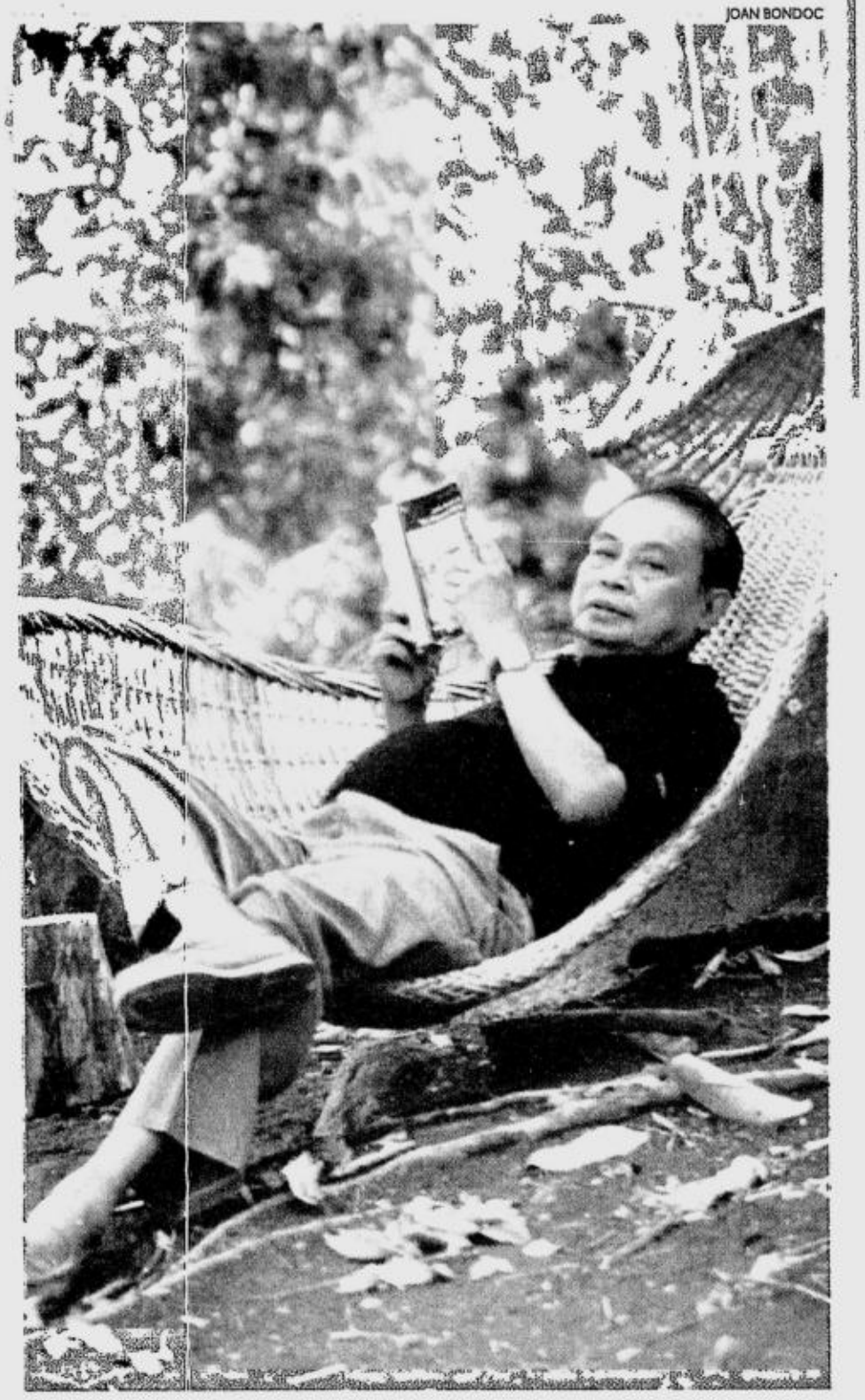
There's no goofing off, however, when it comes to his training for the Busan-bound squad. Aside from the six days-a-week practice, Asi lifts weights and runs as much as he can. "I don't want to disappoint the fans so I spend a lot of hours getting myself into the best shape possible." He now tips the scales at a fighting weight of 247 pounds. "I'm not going back to the weight I had before. That was just laziness and stupidity."

Asi's newfound commitment to the game comes from knowing what he wants. Aside from a happy family life, an Asian Games medal and a championship for Talk & Text, he dreams of greatness: "I want to leave behind a legacy, I want people to know that this guy used to be lazy but he changed and became dedicated. Now I want to be the best to ever play in the PBA." Mendoza believes Asi can achieve his goal: "But he must have the firm resolve to discipline himself into observing the formula of success at all times—that is, never lose focus on the highest standards in becoming a full-fledged cage superstar."

After seeing what he has lost and the rare chance he's been given, The Rock has dedicated himself to that task, intent on continuing a rebound that's anything but offensive. "When I had everything taken away from me, I really had to reevaluate myself," Asi Taulava concludes. "Now, I'm really dedicated to the game."

Twists of Fate
By Amadis Ma. Guerrero

The Greening of Gat Inciong


JOAN BONDOC

He has transformed rocky terrain into a lush resort. But former union leader and Marcos appointee Amado "Gat" Inciong continues to baffle some sectors with his divided loyalties

It was a rocky, secluded terrain amid the hills of Pililla, Rizal, overlooking silvery Laguna de Bay. Nobody was interested in the property; the area didn't even have electricity.

Then, in the early 1980s, labor conciliator Amado "Gat" Inciong and his wife Eva Maggay, an educator, bought the piece of real estate. They brought electricity to the community, founded a kinder school, established a farm, planted trees and transformed the place into a flower-strewn haven that later came to be known as the Stagira Country Resort.

The rest-and-recreation hideaway, with its hilltop swimming pool and other amenities, is popular among religious groups and non-government organizations that regularly hold their conferences, seminar-workshops, retreats and renewal meetings here.

Inciong, a philosophy major, named the resort after the Greek isle of Stagira where Aristotle was born. The son of farmers from San Juan, Batangas, Inciong became a consistent honor student at the Batangas Eastern Academy and at the Manuel L. Quezon University.

The assertive Inciong did not exactly endear himself to the US Central Intelligence Agency with his staunch defense and espousal of nationalist and left wing causes. On the other hand, his years of service under the hated Marcos regime easily made him suspect among the same Leftists whose causes he used to uphold.

But life has always been a series of strange twists and turns for this articulate Batangueño.

The decade of the '50s was the crucible for Inciong, as he made the acquaintance of prominent nationalists like fellow Batangueños Claro M. Recto and Jose P. Laurel, as well as Lorenzo Tañada. As gardener-librarian for Recto for two years, he impressed the writer-senator by the fact that he read philosopher Immanuel Kant. Inciong would soon take to the hustings, campaigning all over the country for Recto in his successful bid for the Senate as guest candidate of the Liberal Party, and later in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency with Tañada as his running mate.

When Inciong joined Ople and Associates, a PR firm headed by now Sen. Blas Ople, he became involved in the trade union movement, and met noted labor leaders, among them Cipriano Cid, Felixberto Olalia, Ignacio Lacsina and Roberto Oca. In 1964, Ople and Associates joined the Marcos for President Movement. When he won, Marcos appointed Ople Labor Secretary and later, Inciong as Labor Undersecretary. When martial law was imposed in 1972, Inciong became Deputy Minister for Labor. Concurrently, he was chair of the Philippine Panel on the US bases.

But Inciong found himself at odds with American authorities with his anti-bases position. In 1980, when a strike broke out at the Clark Air Base and Inciong managed to settle it in a day, the Americans suspected him of stage-managing the whole thing. More than ever, they considered him a threat to their interests and began a concerted campaign against him. Leaders of a US-backed trade union issued a white paper against Inciong, alleging unfair labor decisions.

Ople, according to Inciong, did not defend him. Inciong declared he would resign and Ople allegedly said, *"Susunod ako* (I'll follow)." But he never did. When Inciong submitted his irrevocable resignation to Marcos, the former President called him "onion-skinned," but accepted his offer nonetheless.

Such encounters have not soured him on Marcos, however. Asked how it felt working for the ousted strongman, Inciong retorts: "Marcos was misunderstood. His sin was that he grabbed all the powers in the country—legislative, military, economic—but he did not transform the life of the masses, unlike Park Chung-Hee (of Korea), Lee Kuan Yew (of Singapore) and Mohammad Mahathir (of Malaysia). He did not succeed in industrializing the country. Had he done that, *siguro hindi siya kontrabida* (perhaps he would not have been seen as a villain)."

As far as Inciong is concerned, Marcos was not a world-class thief. *"Kung nagnakaw man siya, kaunti lang* (If he stole at all, it was just a small amount). But there is no question that there is hidden wealth, where did he get that? Imelda (Marcos) says he was into gold buying by the tons. So these were probably stashed away abroad, in Switzerland," he adds ingeniously.

When he left the government in 1980, Inciong joined the radical labor federation *Kilusang Mayo Uno* for some time, before setting up Inciong and Associates, a labor arbitration firm, with his only child, Elias, a product of the Ateneo College of Law.

At the request of labor or management, Inciong helps resolve deadlocks over collective bargaining issues to forestall strikes. It is a position that is again bound to put him in the crosshairs of divided opinion.

But wife Eva Inciong sees things differently: "Gat is effective because he works behind the scenes and does not care about credit," she says. His success rate? "I would say seven on a scale of 10."

In Memoriam
By Jurgette Honculada

Pastor, Prophet, Labor Leader

Labor stalwart Cipriano "Popsing" Malonzo straddled two disparate worlds: the prayerful church fellowship and the rowdy cuss-filled union federation. But in both, Malonzo shepherded his flock with utmost concern and commitment

He lived in two worlds, his son Bong Malonzo used to say: "the gentle hymn-singing prayerful church fellowship, and the heretical cuss-filled union crowd." But Cipriano Cortez (Popsing) Malonzo straddled the two estranged worlds, being pastor, prophet and labor leader for most of his 89 years until he passed away of a stroke in December last year.

The stalwart of the Philippine labor movement grew up in Angeles, Pampanga in grinding poverty, the third in a brood of 11 of a laundry woman and a reformed gambler who converted to Methodism. At family gatherings in latter years, Malonzo loved to talk about those lean days when he had to steal guavas and work as a caddy while courting Harris College *interna* Basilia Avelino. But Malonzo and his bride chose to settle in far-off Mindanao because his in-laws hated having for an in-law a *"macabebe,"* the pejorative term used for Pampangos that roughly translates to "traitor."

Pastoral work kept Malonzo busy, as pastor of the Davao City United Evangelical Church, the precursor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and later, as theology scholar in Silliman University. The war rudely interrupted this idyll, and he moved on to become teacher and news correspondent in Zamboanga. There he stumbled on a meeting of the Zamboanga Labor Union (ZLU) called by Roseller T. Lim, a union lawyer who would later become a senator. Lim offered Popsing the deputy post, silencing his pleas of inexperience with the classic, *"Di ba ikaw ay Kapampangan, 'yon ang karanasan mo"* (being a Pampangueño is all the experience you need), in apparent reference to the province being the seedbed of the Leftist movement. Indeed, Malonzo often spoke of Don Pedro Abad Santos, founder of the Socialist Party in Pampanga, and how he crossed class lines to organize sugar workers.

But except for Abad Santos, who was an early and abiding influence on him, Malonzo was a self-made union leader,

Malonzo and wife Basilia Avelino

without the benefit of a mentor. But there was no question that the pudgy and bespectacled wayfarer from the north had a profound empathy for workers. In fact, Silliman University had offered Malonzo a scholarship that would have supported his law studies, but he passed it up in favor of being with Basilan's 10,000 rubber plantation workers during an impending strike. He was crucial in winning a seven-day paid paternity leave provision for the workers of the Basilan (later Menzi) rubber plantation in the 1960s. Plantation owner Gen. Hans Menzi was reportedly irate and let out a mouthful: "That crazy, Malonzo, I did not f___ those women, their husbands did. Now you want me to pay?" But Malonzo eventually convinced Menzi, and paternity leave became a standard for all Mindanao Federation of Labor (MFL) collective bargaining agreements during this period.

With Malonzo at its helm, the Zamboanga Labor Union rode the crest of the wood industry and expanded quickly into Mindanao's logging settlements. But boom soon turned to bust when the industry collapsed because of competition from other Southeast Asian coun

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Trailblazers
By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.

Dressed to Dance

Isabel Santos, costume director of the Bayanihan, shares her stories from 45 years of making the country's premier folk dance company look wonderful on stage

BETOY JOHNSON

AT 81, she has not stopped creating. Neither has she turned her back on the pleasures of traveling, although pleasure, in this sense, involves work, too, like researching on indigenous clothing, or scouring for textile and accessories in the local market. For Isabel A. Santos, a destination is not just the usual Paris, or London, or Honolulu. It also means Lake Sebu in Cotabato, or Bontoc in the Cordillera mountains.

Tita Bills has been the costume director of the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, the national folk dance company, since its founding in 1957. As such, she has braved both hinterlands and coasts researching on what the tribal Filipinos wear at home, in the working fields and seashores, and when they perform their birth-to-death rituals.

In 1970, she also became a tour director, a post she gladly assumed for every major foray of the group into foreign lands. But she is not daunted, not even if some of these meant performing in Israel not long after the Six-Day war in the mid-'60s, when the sounds of gunfire could be heard close by. Or taking a military plane from Okinawa, with a life vest in one hand and a parachute in the other. And then, the Bayanihan was in China when an earthquake hit the land, registering 8.25 on the Richter scale at 3 o'clock in the morning. *Tita* Bills was all alone in her suite, when the chandelier fell next to her feet.

Mindanao, too, has never intimidated *Tita* Bills; it is, after all, her birthplace. Her father, Paulino Santos, was then a young officer of the Philippine Constabulary assigned in Marawi City, where she spent the first six years of her life. Later, he would be assigned to Manila, but not before little Bills had taken interest in the local culture. "As a young girl, I collected artifacts like earrings and other pieces of jewelry. I would also dress up my doll, sometimes with my own version of local folkwear."

Bills went to the Philippine Women's University for high school and college, where she took up education, major in English. She graduated *summa cum laude* in 1942 and then taught at PWU. On a Fulbright scholarship and a PWU faculty fellowship, she went for her MA in English at Fordham University in New York, graduating in 1951.

As soon as she returned, she taught at Women's again where, as an English teacher, she helped mount productions. She also took care of the costumes of the cast. Inday Urtula, then the Physical Education teacher, took notice and asked her to costume her students for their dance recitals. Thus, her initial stint in college-based productions.

In 1955, a turning point in the history of the PWU would take place. A delegation consisting of Inday Urtula, Libertad Fajardo, Violeta Verdote and Lourdes Villaflor, with King Kasilag as head, represented the university at the International Festival of Dance and Music. Kasilag asked for a piano to accompany the dancers. She was refused outright by the hosts, who were aghast at the thought of the use of a western musical instrument to accompany an Oriental dance. While it had been a humbling experience, it also inspired then Executive Vice President Helena Benitez to found the Bayanihan Dance Company, and lead her staff to pursue cultural research.

For this initial undertaking, *Tita* Bills joined the core group. Thus was Isabel Santos launched as the Philippines' prime costume director.

The group's cultural fieldwork brought them to various parts of the country, where, singly and collectively, they documented the Filipinos' dances and rituals.

By 1958, they were sufficiently ready with a repertoire that was ripe for presentation to the rest of the world. Their baptism of fire came by way of the Brussels World's Fair. The *singkil* was a hit. This led to further research, "which brought us back to Mindanao as soon as we returned from our Brussels triumph," says *Tita* Bills.

Living color: *Tita* Bills explains the nuances of a costume, above; colorful garb for the "*Itik-Itik*" and the "*Paypay de Manila*," below and bottom

Using the *singkil* as an example, *Tita* Bills explains the nuances of the work of the costume director. "For one, the princess has to have the most beautiful costume, highlighting her prime role. The color, the beads, and the over-all design should befit her. And then, the prince should be equally radiant and grand. The attendants would have less embroidery and décor, while the men would be simply dressed. But as one breathes in the spectacle that is going on, one realizes the combination of colors allows one to focus on the principal dancers, while remaining aware of the minor roles of the other dancers."

In her lectures on costume, *Tita* Bills never fails to inspire the young members of the company, regaling them with knowledge that is almost exclusively hers. "Costuming the Bayanihan is both an adventure and a discovery that is anchored on research. When we cannot beg, borrow or buy the beautiful costumes of ethnic tribesmen, we settle for photographing, sketching and recording them on video. Often, these costumes would be exquisitely handmade, intricately beaded and embroidered, treasured ceremonial garments."

The first-time listener is transfixed as she describes each costume – the Igorot G-string, the Maria Clara, the *malong*, the *balintawak* and the *patadyong*.

While she is generally responsible for all the costumes, *Tita* Bills lets on that "we have, through the years, sought the help of top designers to dress our principal dancers. Pitoy Moreno, whose original shop was right across the Women's, was with us right from our early years. Others who have helped us were Ben Farrales, Bert Hernandez, and Arturo Cruz, the last having been active in stage productions himself."

Tita Bills confides further that "if there are 35 dancers for a performance, I would take care of the 30 dancers. I am responsible for the design, but our seamstresses, of course, are responsible for the execution. I work with them closely."

But then, *Tita* Bills also makes sure she herself sources out the materials, going to Divisoria and Quiapo. When touring, *Tita* Bills is almost always solely responsible for the costumes, although of late, she has been taking along an understudy. Together, they would visit the markets and look for textiles and accessories that they can use for future productions.

In 1970, *Tita* Bills became tour director for the first time, which means being head of the delegation and looking into every aspect of the production. "The others who could have been tour directors were all preoccupied with something else, including family matters, so by process of elimination, I was given the responsibility," she says. "It was a memorable tour, and the triumphs would far outweigh the problems."

Tita Bills, of course, has had her share of critics' nasty as well as approving words. A costume was once described as having "too much of glitter" – "but I was in agreement with the host," *Tita* Bills says, "so I removed some of the sequins before we moved on to the next engagement."

And then, of course, just as Bayanihan choreography has also been criticized as being too stylized, *Tita* Bills' costumes have sometimes been described as "not authentic enough." She points out that theater has its own requirements. Tribal music, for example, can be repetitive, and you can't present it as is to an audience that will be in the auditorium for no more than two hours. "The same can be said of costumes. We don't aim for photographic reproductions. Besides, while an original may be exquisite, it may not have sufficient visual impact on stage. It's the same way with beadwork and embroidery of the tribal groups. If you look at them closely, they are very nice. But from a distance, they become a blur of colors." And critics agreed; Newsweek magazine once declared that "the highest marks must be given to...costume director Isabel A. Santos who has designed some of the most dazzling, yet simple, dresses ever to grace a Broadway stage."

Recently, she again shared in another triumph of the company when, in the 47th International Folk Festival in Sicily, Italy held from February 5 to 17, 2002, the company won the internationally-coveted Gold Temple Award and the Absolute Gold Award for over-all excellence in dance, music, production and, of course, costume.

But, as *Tita* Bills says, "There's still so much to look forward to. I am now writing a Bayanihan book which is, more or less, our collective memoir for the last 45 years. And I am also in search of a room where I can display my collection of folk artifacts and my other memorabilia.

"But," *Tita* Bills chuckles, "that doesn't mean I am retiring."

The Artist Abroad
By Luis H. Francia

The *Manong* Experience

Even before the war, life for these mostly young Filipino men who came to work in the U.S. in the early decades of American occupation was already a battle, one that often was life-threatening and deeply contradictory. But they endured so that we could have our privileges, flawed as they are

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

SAN FRANCISCO—This small, beautiful, hilly city, with its picturesque bay, fog, and storied past, is one of the few places on the continent I would consider living in outside of New York. Aside from the physical grandeur it finds itself immersed in, San Francisco has a sizable Asian/Asian-American population, including of course Pinoys—those recently arrived and those whose families have been living here for three or four generations. (A local joke has it that the Frisco fog is really steam arising from countless rice cookers in Pinoy—and other Asian—households.) Here, the elements of the modern Filipino's hybrid identity are clearly visible, with local hip-hop bands, performing arts groups—such as the scathingly irreverent Tongue in a Mood theater troupe and the dance-oriented Kulintang Arts—and a nonprofit organization like the Berkeley-based Pusod Arts, attempting to weave the different threads of our various legacies into memorable tapestries.

The Bay Area community of Pinoys—as well as other émigré centers in other West Coast cities—is quite different from that in New York. For one thing, the *manong* experience has been a major factor in its composition, its politics and its outlook on Via Americana. I don't know what the exact proportion is, but many families are descendants of the mostly young males who came here in the early years of the 20th century, in the first decades of American occupation. They came as "nationals," a category that meant they were neither completely alien nor citizen. They had the right of entry and of work but could not vote, own land, or marry Caucasian lasses. The quintessential chronicle of those years of hard, backbreaking labor, vicious racism, and isolation remains Carlos Bulosan's classic "America is in the Heart."

If you wish to understand in a visceral way what it was like to be an itinerant farm laborer in California or anywhere on the Pacific Coast in those days, you must read this book. Bulosan also gives us a vivid, lyrical account of growing up poor in the Philippine countryside during the American era. What comes through in an extraordinarily passionate manner are both the degradation the *manongs* had to endure and the resultant resiliency of their spirit, coupled with the depth of faith they had in the idea of America, so very different from its reality—a major reason the *manongs* were to prove such excellent soldiers during World War II. Even before the war, life for them was already a battle, one that often was life-threatening and deeply contradictory, and hence much harder to fight.

In his writings, Bulosan clearly feels deeply ambivalent about America and its two sides: one that holds out the promise of a truly democratic society, and one that withholds those rights from people of color. In the poem "All the Living Fear," with the "you" presumably the American reader, he writes: "You did not give America to me, and never will / America is in the hearts of the people that live in it. / But it is worth the coming, the sacrifice, the idealism,/ Yes, it is worth all these—and the loneliness at night, / the bitterness of prejudice, the sharp fangs of hunger,/ the terror of rootlessness."

No wonder, then, that with this background of soul-searing hardships, the West Coast Filipinos possess a greater sense of militancy and of their history in and with the US. In contrast, having been largely formed as a consequence of the 1965 Immigration Act that widened the gates, the New York metropolitan-area communities are more recent, dispersed, and seem to be largely middle to upper middle-class. One could say that the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" suffered by our West Coast brethren made possible the existence of the East Coast half. The *manongs* endured so we could have our privileges, flawed as they are.

Equally perceptive stories of the *manong* experience, by their peers, though vastly different in style, are those of Bienvenido Santos and N.V.M. Gonzales. Santos' "The Day the Dancers Came" and "Immigration Blues" render brilliantly—the former sadly, the latter hilariously—the perils of aging in an America to which the first line of Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium" applies perfectly: "That is no country for old men."

My readings of these writers, now all gone, suffuse my visits to San Francisco and the West Coast with an imaginary yet genuinely felt nostalgia, and at the same time a keener appreciation of what it is to be a brown man here, with all its tricky, sometimes treacherous, undercurrents and ambiguities, some explored, others still to reveal themselves. In a land that blithely spurns history, coming here takes on the character of a pilgrimage.

End Page
By John L. Silva

How to Love a Museum

Museum visits instill in children a sense of inquiry, expose them to an accumulated treasure trove of a country's heritage, and instill a humanist perspective to counter the current vogue in specialized learning

THANKS to a Ford Foundation grant, I've had the wonderful opportunity to travel throughout the country teaching hundreds of teachers how to love a museum. I've met incredible public school teachers who sacrificed their weekends, traveled great distances (a few coming from neighboring islands), and paid a registration fee with their own money, all so they can learn how to appreciate their local museums. In turn, they developed the confidence and enthusiasm to guide their students on their next museum tour.

My lecture and training course, which started in the National Museum, is a simple, non-theoretical approach requiring a teacher to come to the participating museum and actually go through its collection with accompanying lectures. In most of the museums where I have lectured, more than half of the teachers attending had never entered their local museum. In University museums, there were longstanding faculty members who hadn't, until the training, stepped into their own museums.

Museums have a role in the overall educational development of a child. In a society still dominated by teaching by rote, museum visits instill in children a sense of inquiry, expose them to an accumulated treasure trove of a country's heritage, and instill a humanist perspective to counter the current vogue in specialized learning. With failing reading scores and a high drop-out rate — not always attributable to poverty — museums are important educational adjuncts to better our failing educational system.

It's been proven to me that teachers, when given the opportunity, will make the requisite effort to enhance their teaching abilities by learning new approaches, like museum visits. But museum visits should not be the task solely of teachers and schools.

It is summer and our country's museums are practically empty because there are no school field trips. Ask a museum guide and they will tell you that the only visitors they get these days are foreign tourists and the diplomatic community. It's high time we develop a museum culture every day of the year. And it must start with parents.

Let me share with parents some pointers on making them lovers of museums as well.

• Parents, like teachers, shouldn't feel they must know more about a museum than the children. A museum is a learning experience for everyone. Discover a museum with your children.

• Give museums equal visiting time to that of going to a mall or a recreation center. Malls feed the body. But museums feed the mind.

• When you travel, include a museum visit whether you are in the province or abroad. There are over 85 museums in this country. And countless more abroad. It would be pathetic parenting if your children can only recount their summer vacation as a shopping experience. Even Hong Kong has some very beautiful museums.

• Ever wondered why we seem to be superficially Filipino? Only five percent of our schoolchildren have stepped into a museum. The figures would be less for the parents' generation. Where do we learn to be Filipino citizens? In the National Museum or SM Megamall?

• Rizal once said that we, as a colonized people, were taught to despise our songs, dances, our native customs, our way of life so that eventually we despised ourselves. Our museums contain many things we "despise." Go there with your children and "undespise" yourselves.

• Give your TV set a break. Grab your kids and go outdoors and visit a museum. Being glued to the tube, even if you're all in one room, does not encourage bonding. Museums do that.

• Make museum visits a habit. Once is not enough. And you can't see everything in one visit. The National Museum alone has more than 15 galleries and cannot all be seen judiciously in one day. With new changing exhibitions, museums are good for unlimited visits.

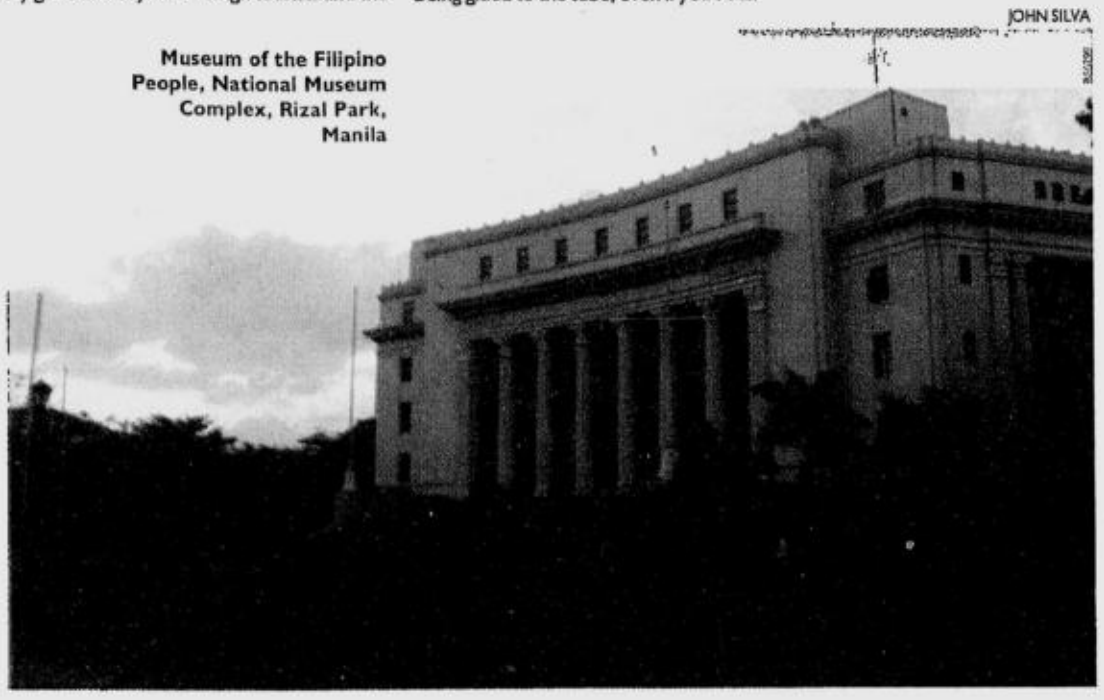
• Yes, not all children were meant to be museum lovers. But there are many more children who will never be such because their parents don't bring them to museums.

• If you think museums are boring, dark, and dusty you've not been to one lately. Have you been to the new National Museum? It's better, more impressive than the National Museums of Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. Foreign visitors are astounded. Your children and yourselves will be, too.

• Museum visits are a sign of a country's maturity, sophistication and self-worth. The Louvre in Paris alone receives six million visitors a year. Visitors to all our museums combined don't reach two million. We have a long way to go but we can increase it. After all, we, as a nation, are younger than France.

Many museums in our country have undergone renovations and have professionalized their staff. New museums have opened or are being planned. The coming school year will see another increase in the number of students going to museums with their teachers. But this summer, as like many summers, the museums are missing the children. But parents can change all that.

JOHN SILVA



Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum Complex, Rizal Park, Manila

By Jess Abrera

Bulaklak

Art

Small Treasures, an exhibit of small-scale paintings by two generations of Philippine masters, from Juan Luna to H.R. Ocampo at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City until April 30.

Puzzles of Broken Bottles, a sculpture exhibit by Ronald Salazar at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Exhibit runs until April 30.

Man Without Qualities, a photo-art travelling exhibit by Matthias Wähner at the Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Avenue in Ermita, Manila until April 30. For details, call 523-3331.

The Ayala Museum showcases **sketches by Jose Joya** until April 30. Thirty-three drawings in various media document the people Joya encountered and the places he visited in his 32-year sojourn.

Flowers of May, an exhibit of water color paintings by Dr. Gersam Lukban and Argie Salazar

Wire Rommel Tuazon's "The Summit," on exhibit at the UP Vargas museum as part of "Endramada"

until May 31 at Salt of the Earth, 79 Maginhawa St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 922-4567.

Space Tourist, the eighth one-man exhibit of multi-media artist Juan Alcazaren, runs from April 23 to May 5, 2002 at the Finale Art Gallery, 4th level, bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. For inquiries, call 6342411.

"Endramada," a touring exhibit of recent artworks by 13 Angono Artists at the UP Vargas Museum. The UP Vargas Museum is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Exhibit runs until May 14. For inquiries please call Linda Pabico at (02)9281927 or 9205301 (local 7407).

"Dreams and Daydreams," an art exhibit of recent works by **Allen Joseph C. Alesna**. Opens on May 10, Waterfront Hotel Lobby. Exhibit runs until June 10.

Around the World through Arts and Crafts, a journey of six countries and cultures through their native arts and crafts to help your child learn about other people and their way of life, runs MWF, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m., until May 24. For details, call Teacher Marie at 671-9121.

"Dry Spell" by Allen Jospeh C. Alesna on exhibit at the Waterfront Hotel lobby

TransCultural Exchange's third installment, **The Coaster Project, Destination: The World**,will be holding its exhibition and distribution until May 7 at the West Gallery, Glorietta; May7-19, Music Museum; and May 14, Freedom Bar, Quezon City. The exhibit is also online at www.transculturalexchange.com.

Art Pack offers a 2-in-1 kiddie package for the month of May. For only P2,900, inclusive of major materials and 6 sessions at 2 hours each, kids get to attend both Sculptural Clay Exploration and the Little Potters Workshop (ages 7-15). Classes start on May 13. Other kiddie workshops are Animation (ages 9-12) and Tiny Crafters (ages 4-8). Adult workshops also offered are Sculptural Earthenware Ceramic, Copper Wire Jewelry, Stones and Copper Weaving, Lamp and Shade Artistry, Bottle Frosting/ Painting and Embellishment, and Faux Stained Glass. For details and reservations, call 8991985, 8952318 or 0917-7934229. Workshops will be held at True Value, Power Plant Mall, Makati.

Jannis Markopoulos' work on exhibit at the West Gallery, Glorietta as part of "The Coaster Project"

Music

***Serenata sa* Fort Santiago**, an open-air brass band concert series featuring military, police and private bands, will be held every Sunday, 4:30 p.m. at Plaza Moriones, Fort Santiago, Intramuros from April 28 to May 26. Entrance fee is P40 for adults and P15 for children and students. For inquiries, call 527-2961 or 527-3138.

The Jesuit Music Ministry and Jesuit Communications present the latest recording from Himig Heswita and Friends, **Your Dwelling Place**, distributed by BMG Pilipinas.

Onstage

Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series presents the Palanca prize-winning play ***Batang Pro*** on May 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Puerta Real Gardens. Written by multi-awarded playwright Bienvenido Noriega Jr., this harrowing socio-psychological drama on the plight of street children is produced by Dramatis Personae under the direction of Lito Casaje. Free admission. For inquiries, call 527-3138 or 527-2961.

Claudia and Her Mother and ***Ang Mga Kahon*** will run from May 2 –12 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, touring and ticket reservations, contact the DUP Office at 926-1349, 920-5301 loc. 6441 or 924-3224 (telefax).

Food

ProActive Center for Training holds its **Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop** on April 29-May 8, 1-5pm, at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 0919-5500601 or email at pactserv@info.com.ph. Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500.

Heritage Hotel Manila's **"2+2=3" Buffet Treat** at its Restaurant Riviera runs until May 31. Pay for only three persons when you dine in a group of four, one will be free of charge at Php680.00+ per person. Price does not include drinks. For inquiries, please contact 854-8888.

Atbp

Workshops on oil painting, cross-stitching, beaded bracelet, origami, collage, dish gardening, terrarium, potpourri, decoupage, ceramic painting ongoing until May. For inquiries, call 455-5245 or 912-7004.

San Carlos Seminary will hold a **National Retreat for Karlista Alumni** on April 29-30 at the San Carlos Seminary, Guadalupe, Makati City. This is part of the launching event for the San Carlos Seminary Tricentennial Celebration (1702-2002) which will formally open on May 1. For inquiries, contact 895-8855.

The Nature Awareness Club Inc. announces the following **nature adventure schedules:** May 6-12—Open Water Diving for a group of five, P9,500 inclusive of instructor, ID, swimming pool, BA and tanks. Classroom session from 7-9 p.m.; May 10-12—Coron Beach Galore & Calauit Safari Tour (Contact Nadine Tolibas at 09179507121); May 25-30—Coron-El Nido-Puerto Princesa Beachleneering Escapades. For details, call Violet Imperial at 806-1720 or text 09194839250.

Jeanpierrecouture, owned by Jean-Pierre Gallo Pardo, specializes in haute couture, streetwear and made-to-order clothes for women. Showroom is located at Suite 2005-A Central Park Tower 1, Jorge St., Pasay City. For inquiries, call 844-9698 or 0918-7918981.

The Blue Eagles Gymnastics Academy (BEGA) offers **summer gymnastics classes** for kids and teenagers until May 31. BEGA is located at the high school covered court, Ateneo de Manila High School, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 920-8672.

The Effie Nanas school of Classical Ballet is holding a **summer dance workshop** until May 29. Ballet courses from pre-beginners to advanced levels are offered. This culminates with a grand recital held at the AFP Theater on May 30. Jazz, Tap, Aerobics and Taekwondo classes are also offered. The school is located at the 4th level, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 6337871.

Berlitz Language Center offers lessons in French, Japanese and Mandarin this summer for ages 13-18. For inquiries, call 817-9319 or visit the Center at the 2/F, Peninsula Court Building, Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Filipinas Heritage Library will be hosting a workshop titled **How to be Opinionated for Fun and Profit: Writing Reviews for Glossies** on May 2 and May 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The workshop shall be conducted by MTV Ink Editor-in-Chief, Kristine Fonacier. Workshop fee is P1,000. For more details, please call 892-1801. Filipinas Heritage Library is along Makati Avenue opposite The Peninsula Manila.

Maya Kitchen, National Bookstore and Anvil Publishing's **A Happy Mom, A Happy Cook!** promotion offers all buyers of P100 worth of Maya Kitchen cookbooks at selected NBS branches a chance to win half-day cooking classes and Maya oven toaster mixes and aprons. Promo runs until May 14.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) is now offering courses on **Basic and Advanced Acting for Film and Television** for the CCP Summer Arts Conservatory Workshops from May 7-16 and May 17-29, respectively. Sessions will be held at the Tanghalang Manuel Conde, Tuesday to Friday, 1-5 p.m. For more details, call Bing Tresvalles at 832-5120 or 8321125 loc.1702.

Anvil Publishing, National Bookstore and Powerbooks will host **May Day Eve Oracle Readings** on Tuesday, April 30 from 4-7 p.m. at NBS branches in SM Manila and SM West, and in Powerbooks Mega Mall. Readings will be conducted by the Spirit Questors, led by playwright and teacher Tony Perez, introducing a new form of reading or future-telling based on the oracles of a renowned Chinese sage Chuko Kung Ming. Readings will be free for all buyers of Perez's best-selling books such as *Mga Panibagonng Kulam, Mga Panibagong Tawas, Mga Panibagong Orasyon*, Beings, The Departed and The Calling.

The **Spiderman Drawing Contest**, hosted by Ayala Cinemas, with the theme "Spiderman Fighting Crime in Manila" is open to all kids ages 5 to 12. Draw your action-packed scenes in ¼ size illustration board. Use pens, crayons, watercolors or any other medium. Submission of entries is until May 30 at the Ayala Cinemas office, 5th Level Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City or at the Alabang Town Center Cinema Ticket Booth. Only one entry is allowed per contestant. Top entries will be on exhibit at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby from May 4-11. For more information, call Bunny Lazatin at 752-7883.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines invites students and working professionals to **join the CCP Ushering Staff** on a part-time basis. Applicants must be 18-28 years old, with a height of 5'8" for males and 5'3" for females; conversant in English (third language/ dialect is an advantage); with pleasing personality, and are willing to stay up late at nights and weekends. Resumés or biodata with latest identification photos are to be submitted at the 2nd flr, House Management Division, Theater Operations Department from Tuesday to Friday, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information, please call 832-1126 loc. 1412-13 or 833-2125.

X-manila

Homage to Magayon, the inaugural exhibit of paintings, sculptures, installations and mixed media works by members of the newly organized Center for Bikol Arts Foundation from May 1-31 at the Magayon Gallery, Albay Provincial Capitol, Legazpi City. For details, call (052) 824-0570 or (054) 655-1326.

Side A and Freestyle perform in a "2-IN-1" major concert on May 4 at the Concert Park of Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and at Island Cove. For inquiries, call 810-3718, 810-3732 or (046) 434-0210.

Pinto Art Gallery, the first art and exhibition space in Antipolo for Philippine contemporary art celebrates the pilgrimage month of May with the launching of the **Antipolo Maytime Arts Festival** on May 5, Sunday. Highlighting the Festival are art exhibits by emergent and progressive Filipino visual artists. Exhibits will run until June 2, 2002. Pinto Art Gallery is located at the Silangan Gardens, Grand Heights, Antipolo City. For inquiries, email pintoartgallery@ pinoymail.com.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Pastor ...from page 4

tries and a slackened demand from recession-hit western countries. The union also lost in certification elections to younger and more aggressive unions, and thinned out in membership in the face of spending gimmickry that had entered labor organizing campaigns by then.

The 1972 declaration of martial law hardly mattered to a greatly weakened MFL. What the decade unwittingly brought was a crop of young activist-lawyers beginning with Ibarra Malonzo, who decided to follow in his father's path of labor organizing. When house arrest grounded the younger Malonzo in Zamboanga, he turned to rebuilding the federation by injecting a political perspective and enlisting young radicals like himself. By 1979, organizational expansion warranted a new name, the National Federation of Labor (NFL).

By the '70s, NFL leaders and locals were taking a more critical posture toward the Marcos dictatorship, with some leaders landing jail terms and a number paying with their lives. Once in the early '80s, mistaken for his son, the elder Malonzo was carted off to a military camp along with the NFL staff and organizers. At 71, he was thrust into the leadership of *Kilusang Mayo Uno* (KMU) when its top leaders *Ka* Bert Olalia and Crispin Beltran were arrested in a massive crackdown in 1982.

The '80s gifted Malonzo with a second spring and a new name, Popsing, perhaps because through the turbulent '70s and '80s, he was the ever protective and watchful father figure, shepherding the motley and endangered flock of workers as best as he could and occasionally interceding with the military for the safety or release of a leader. He also embraced the new militancy of the times, but was careful to draw the distinction between socialism, which he had avowed since his youth, and communism which he disavowed.

While the '80s were a rebirth for NFL which peaked with 44,000 dues-paying members in 1987, the '90s have been bogged down by several disasters, including a conflict with KMU ending in NFL's 1993 disaffiliation, as well as retrenchments and closures in the wake of globalization.

For the second time in his life, Popsing was witness to the federation's fight for survival. Yet, in his 80s, Popsing set himself to the task of painstaking organizing, joining organizers in their 20s and often providing them transportation money. This meant daily, or nightly, meetings with aggrieved workers, visits to the Department of Labor to check on slow-moving cases and out-of-town trips for general membership meetings.

Organizing was Popsing's lifeblood, as it is the union's lifeblood. On his last fully-conscious day, on Dec. 5, before his first stroke, Popsing was at the office early to review transcripts of an interview by Bureau of Labor Relations personnel. It was frequently speculated that Popsing would die with his boots on, and indeed, he did.

Now Exhibiting: The ProbeTeam

THE PROBE Team Exhibit showcases more than 80 behind-the-scenes photographs and drawings, all from the many award-winning stories of the most awarded news magazine show in Philippine television. It also marks the 15 years the Probe Team has been in the industry. See photos of Cheche Lazaro climbing Mt. Apo, investigating the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, meeting the cave dwellers in Palawan, and drawings done by artist/reporter Robert Alejandro. Exhibit runs from May 1 to 31 at the Papemelroti Café at 91 Roces Ave., Quezon City.

The Probe Team celebrates its 15th year in visual style

Theater Tales

By Ina Alleco R. Silverio
Photographs by August dela Cruz

Actress of Substance

HER PETITE frame and her voice, which rises and falls in a childlike cadence, give lie to her 28 years. After 23 years of acting in front of the cameras and live theater audiences, Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta hardly looks older than 15.

Harlene started acting at the tender age of five, in a movie called "Darling, *Buntis Ka Na Naman.*" She comes from acting stock, being the youngest child of movie director Herminio "Butch" Bautista and sibling to two other actors who themselves started out as child performers – comedian/writer Hero Bautista and comedian, and now QC Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista. A graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman with a Bachelor Arts Degree in Theater Arts, Harlene has directed, written, and produced stage plays for the school, as well as acted in numerous other plays written by local and foreign award-winning playwrights.

Most recently, Harlene was involved in the New Voice production of "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler, part of the cast acting out the monologues in their Filipino translation written by Joi Barrios, Glecy Atienza, and Luna Sicat.

"This is the kind of show that everybody should watch," she says. "It delves into issues that many writers wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole – sexual repression of women, marital violence, women's lack of confidence in themselves as sexual beings...They're hinted at in other plays, but seldom really discussed."

Even the V-word in the title most playwrights wouldn't normally use. But in Ensler's play; "vagina" comes up almost after every word. In the play, Harlene rattles off various names for the vagina – and the elusive clitoris – in different dialects and in the language of food and plant similes and metaphors: *mamon, bibingka, monay, mani, pinya*, flower.

During the Women's Month celebrations last March, Harlene, along with Tami Monsod and Lynn Sherman, played to an audience of legislators and Congressional employees at the House of Representatives (HOR). The latter two delivered the English monologues, while Harlene gave her lines in Filipino.

The reaction to Harlene's performance was electric. She was like quicksilver – speaking with the nuances of an eight-year old one moment, and a grown woman the next. There was her anguished portrayal of a village woman raped by soldiers, raped by war. Many wept, not in pity, but in outrage. *"Iba rin kasi kapag wika ng* audience *mo ang gamit mo. Mas nararamdaman, hindi lang naiintindihan"* (It's different when you use your own language; it's felt, not just understood), she opines.

Working as she has since childhood, Harlene has managed to build a filmography that covers all acting genres – tearjerkers, action films, comedies, horror movies and suspense thrillers. She was part of the original cast of the soap opera *"Flor de Luna,"* as the child Mirinisa. As a teenager, she became part of "That's Entertainment." She was also a featured performer in almost all the noteworthy drama shows like "Lovingly Yours, Helen," "Seiko Drama Presents," "Coney Reyes on Camera" and *"Maalaala Mo Kaya."*

Unlike many of her early contemporaries, actress Harlene Bautista took the more difficult route and cut her formidable acting teeth in theater. Now, it's a passion she uses to champion worthy causes, and which she happily shares with her husband

But throughout her career in TV and the movies, it was evident that she hadn't landed any role worthy of her acting talent. In the movies she was in, she almost always played second fiddle to the lead actress, or part of an ensemble.

Harlene doesn't have conventional leading lady looks; her face has a delicate, fragile look to it, and her long hair makes her appear more like a little girl than a woman on her way to her 30s. With Philippine movies having the orientation that it does – appearance being more of a consideration than actual talent – Harlene was evidently relegated to the background.

"That's why I like theater more," she jokes. *"Doon nagiging bida ako!"* She says this, however, without the slightest tinge of bitterness, and she shrugs her shoulders as if to say, "That's the way it is sometimes."

But *bida* she should be. It was only in theater where Harlene's innate and sensitive acting talent was exercised, honed and appreciated. In UP, where she was and still is a regular of Dulaang UP, Harlene successfully landed roles where she didn't need to play cute because, unlike many of her contemporaries, she can act.

She's acted in everything from the Sanskrit play "The Little Toy Cart" and Floy Quintos' deconstructed "Fili" to Shakespeare's "The Tempest," "The Women" by Claire Booth Luce, "Frustrations" by Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, and many more.

But aside from performing, Harlene has also ventured into directing. So far, she has directed two plays also performed in UP: *"Madumi"* and *"Isa Dalawa Tatlo."*

"I want to do that again – direct. There are challenges there that are quite different but related to acting that I want to discover," she says. "That, and performing in a musical." Turns out that singing has always been something of a frustration for Harlene. She used to sing when she was part of "That's Entertainment." "*Pero* mostly *pangpiyesta lang ako*," she laughs. Seriously, however, Harlene is bent on becoming part of a musical, "Any musical!" Not content with merely wishing, however, she's taking singing lessons..

In the meantime, between playing Juliet, Salome and Laura in various productions, Harlene has also taken the role of wife to former fellow child star, ex-matinee idol and now theater actor Romnick Sarmenta. They and their two children, Abijah Gabriel (from a previous relationship of Harlene's) and Zeke Silestijne live a fairly normal life. "*Simple lang kami*," Romnick says. "No complications. We're friends." They call each other "Bebe."

As parents, Harlene and Romnick believe in raising their kids by themselves; and their bonding time is almost every minute available. "We bring them everywhere," Harlene says. Which is mostly why the Sarmentas don't have much of a social life – when they're not at work, they stay at home with the children, watching cartoons or reading to them. During play rehearsals, the two kids would sit with their father backstage or in front, watching their mother transform herself.

People who keep track of local showbiz gossip know that Harlene and Romnick's history as a couple goes back a long way. They became an onscreen couple, but their love team was not as popular as Romnick's pairing with Sheryl Cruz. In real life, their relationship could not prosper because of the intrigues that were part of the business they were in. They broke off, and lost contact for years.

Then, in 1998, they resumed their friendship and shortly after got married. Their shared history, the familiarity they have with each other and the deep comfort are evident in the way they talk to each other, even in other people's presence. "Rapport and chemistry, we have that," says Romnick. But he isn't just referring to their personal relationship as husband and wife. "*Masarap syang makapareha*, to play against. I am aware of how deeply she goes into her role, how she internalizes it. When she's on stage, she's not an actress acting – she becomes the person she's portraying," he says. "And I'm not saying that because she's my wife!"

There was one time, however, when Harlene could not stay in character. She was in a romantic scene with Romnick when one student spoke loudly to Harlene: "*Kuu, syempre* sweet *kayo, mag-asawa kayo e!*" Harlene got so incensed she stopped acting, turned to the boy and gave him the evil eye.

"*Pinagalitan ako ng* director afterward," she recalls. This remains one of her frustrations. "By and large, the Filipino theater audience is not very mature. Theater is, unfortunately, still for the elite, tickets are so expensive, and when people watch, high school kids for example, they're required by their teachers. It would be great if we could teach people to appreciate plays more, especially those written by Filipino authors."

So far, Harlene and Romnick have appeared together in three plays. Romnick encourages Harlene to write. "She's already written one play – *'Sakal, Kasal*, Xenical.' If she had more time, she could write more and perform in her pieces as well."

Harlene nods. "But what we really want to do is to perform together in a production of 'Romeo and Juliet,'" she says. They have both acted in the play, but never with each other. "I've always wanted us to do that play because I want to say Juliet's love words to Romnick," she says, a smile in her voice. Her husband doesn't react, feigning indifference, but fails. He turns to her, "*Oo nga.*"

We are family: Every minute is bonding time for Romnick, Harlene and kids Zeke and Abijah